



## GOSHEN COMMON COUNCIL

### Minutes of the APRIL 22, 2024 Regular Meeting

*Convened in the Council Chambers, Police & Court Building, 111 East Jefferson Street, Goshen, Indiana*

Assisted by Mayor Gina Leichty, Santi Leos called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Santi is a second-grade student at Model Elementary School.

Mayor Leichty asked Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre to conduct the roll call.

Present: Linda Gerber (At-Large) Phil Lederach (District 5) Doug Nisley (District 2)  
Megan Peel (District 4) Donald Riegsecker (District 1) Matt Schrock (District 3)  
Council President Brett Weddell (At-Large)

Absent: Youth Adviser Jessica Velazquez Valdes (Non-voting)

#### Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Leichty asked the Council's wishes regarding the minutes of the March 25, 2024 Regular Meeting as prepared by Clerk-Treasurer Aguirre. Councilor Nisley moved to accept the minutes as presented by the Clerk-Treasurer. Councilor Schrock seconded the motion. **Motion passed 7-0 on a voice vote.**

#### Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Mayor Leichty presented the agenda. Council President Weddell moved that the order of the agenda be reversed so he and Council Nisley could attend another meeting, a primary election forum at the Goshen Theater. Councilor Nisley seconded the motion. **Motion passed 7-0 on a voice vote.**

#### Privilege of the Floor:

At 6:04 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited public comments for matters not on the agenda.

Glenn Null of Goshen said he appreciated City employees picking up of tree limbs brought down by spring winds. Null also commented on the danger of crossing Main Street, in crosswalks. He said motorists don't always stop. Null also said he would like there to be more enforcement to make Goshen friendlier and to encourage more shopping.

There were no further comments, so Mayor Leichty closed Privilege of the Floor at 6:05 p.m.

#### 1) Resolution 2024-09 – Interlocal Agreement with the County of Elkhart for the Establishment of the Marion Branch Quiet Zone

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Resolution 2024-09, *Interlocal Agreement with the County of Elkhart for the Establishment of the Marion Branch Quiet Zone*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Resolution 2024-09 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Peel made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-09.





**BACKGROUND:**

**Resolution 2024-09 would approve the terms and conditions and authorize execution of the Interlocal Agreement with Elkhart County for the establishment of a new railroad quiet zone on the Marion Branch, from Washington Street to County Road 42.**

Under the agreement, the County would approve the establishment of the new quiet zone and delegate to City the authority to take all such actions as required by federal regulations to establish the new quiet zone. This specifically would include the County Road 42 grade crossing as well as at the location of the County Road 40 crossing that are outside the city limits.

The Goshen Redevelopment Commission has agreed to provide the funding for the implementation of one or more safety measures required for the establishment of the new quiet zone on the Marion Branch.

**The agreement specifies that:**

- This purpose of this agreement is to coordinate the establishment of a new railroad quiet zone on the Marion Branch from Washington Street to County Road 42 ("Marion Branch Quiet Zone"), including the construction, maintenance, and funding for necessary railroad crossing improvements at each grade crossing within the Marion Branch Quiet Zone, hereinafter referred to as "the Project."
- The City is in the process of making application to the Federal Railroad Administration to establish a new railroad quiet zone on the Marion Branch from Washington Street to County Road 42, hereinafter referred to as the "Marion Branch Quiet Zone."
- Since the proposed new quiet zone includes the public highway-rail grade crossings, which are under the authority and control of County, in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 222.37(a), both the City and County must agree to the establishment of the quiet zone, and the County must delegate to the City the authority to take such actions as are required by 49 C.F.R. pt. 222 to establish the Marion Branch Quiet Zone.
- Such actions required to establish and maintain the Marion Branch Quiet Zone by City will include the implementation and maintenance of one or more safety measures at each grade crossing within the new quiet zone.
- The existing crossing at County Road 42 (DOT# 533515K) has one (1) mainline track with one (1) travel lane in each direction. The existing approach pavement and crossing surface is in good condition. The existing crossing has an active warning system consisting of post mounted flashing lights. Due to the quiet zone requirements, the City agrees to upgrade the active warning devices to include flashing red lights with gates and constant warning time. In addition to upgrading the active warning devices, 100 feet of channelization devices will be added to both approaches while the pavement markings and signage will be updated to meet MUTCD requirements within a quiet zone. The City agrees to meet the Federal Railroad Administration's expectations for construction and completion of the improvements at the public highway-rail grade crossing at County Road 42.

**SUMMARY OF APRIL 22 , 2024 COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-09:**

**City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann** said the City has been working to establish a quiet zone on the Marion Branch for a number of years. He said one of the steps to establish it was to improve crossings, including at County Road 42.

**Stegelmann** said an interlocal agreement between City and the County was necessary because the County Road 42 crossing is in the County's jurisdiction. Under the agreement, the county would delegate to the City the responsibility to make improvements that would satisfy the railroad administration.

**City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor** said the agreement would also require the City to assume the responsibility of maintaining that crossing from now on. He said the County doesn't want that responsibility.





**Councilor Schrock** asked if the City would only be assuming the responsibility at that County crossing. **Sailor** said it was the only one in the County, outside of the City limits, that would be maintained by the City.

**Councilor Peel** asked about the Madison Street crossing. **Sailor** said the Madison Street crossing is within the City of Goshen. He said the City has already paid for those improvements and the City is waiting for action at that location.

**Council President Weddell** said the City Redevelopment Commission supports the proposal and is providing much for the funding for the improvements. **Sailor** said that was correct.

**Mayor Leichty** asked if there were additional comments or questions from Councilors. There were not.

At 6:08 p.m., **Mayor Leichty** invited public comments on Resolution 2024-09. There were none.

**Mayor Leichty** called for a vote by the Council.

*On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously approved Resolution 2024-09, Interlocal Agreement with the County of Elkhart for the Establishment of the Marion Branch Quiet Zone, by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting "yes," at 6:08 p.m.*

## 2) Resolution 2024-08 – Interlocal Agreement with the County of Elkhart for the Improvement of the Pumpkinvine Trail

**Mayor Leichty** called for the introduction of Resolution 2024-08, *Interlocal Agreement with the County of Elkhart for the Improvement of the Pumpkinvine Trail*. **Council President Weddell** asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Resolution 2024-08 by title only, which was done.

**Weddell/Nisley** made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-08.

### BACKGROUND:

Resolution 2024-08 would approve the terms and conditions of the Interlocal Agreement with Elkhart County for the Improvement of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail.

The agreement would coordinate the improvement and pavement of the Pumpkinvine Trail from State Road 4 (Lincoln Avenue) north to County Road 28 in Elkhart County. The project consists of the planning, funding, designing, engineering, bidding, constructing, inspecting, and overseeing of the project.

### Under the interlocal agreement:

- The County will serve as the "Design Consultant" on the Project and provide the engineering and design work necessary for bidding and inspection of the project.
- The engineering and design standards for the Project must be approved by the County and City.
- The County will serve as the Lead Agency for the Project and will be responsible for the overall administration of the Project including but not necessarily limited to the following:
  - Bidding and awarding the Project in compliance with governmental requirements applicable to City and County, for the bidding of public works projects.
  - Obtaining any governmental permits or approvals required to construct the Project.
  - Administering any contract or contracts awarded to a successful bidder or bidders on the Project.





- Providing engineering review and construction inspection services for the Project to the extent that such are not the responsibility of the successful bidder or bidders.
- Maintaining the documents, contracts, notices, and other records connected with the Project.
- Providing the City with a financial summary of all funds needed for the Project, all funds received for the Project, and all funds expended on the Project, to include specifically the responsibility of City to fund the amounts needed for the Project.
- While the County will serve as the Lead Agency, the City and County acknowledge that such is tied largely to the County providing the Design Consultant services contemplated under "Lead Agency" above.
- The City will be significantly involved with the Project and its participation will include the following:
  - The City shall review and approve the Project engineering and design, though such engineering and design shall be provided by County as part of the Lead Agency role set forth above.
  - The City shall fund all direct and indirect construction costs associated with the Project, with the acknowledged desire and intent of County and City to seek cost-sharing participation by third parties, which shall serve to diminish the costs of City for such direct or indirect construction costs. Direct and indirect construction costs associated with the Project shall include trail drainage and repairs needed preparatory to paving, change orders, and compaction and materials testing.
  - The City shall appropriate and have available for use by County, all funds required of the City for its share of the direct and indirect construction costs, it being acknowledged that the transfer of such funds to County must occur essentially simultaneous with the Notice to Proceed with the Project, or even in advance thereof, as The County is not in a position to advance the funds for the construction costs associated with the Project.
- Since time is of the essence:
  - The City and County agree to cooperate so that the engineering and design and preliminary bidding process can be completed in time to receive bids for the Project by the end of May 2024.
  - The City may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice of termination to the County no later than 60 days after receipt of the bids. In the event the City fails to provide the necessary funding for the Project to the County within 60 days after the receipt of bids, the County may terminate this Agreement.
  - The parties contemplate that construction shall commence and be completed during 2024; however, should unexpected difficulties or delays occur, the Project may extend the completion date with written notice.
  - The City and County agree to communicate with each other in establishing a construction schedule that will allow the Project to be completed in a timely fashion consistent with subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.
  - This Agreement shall be in effect through Dec. 31, 2024 and shall thereafter automatically renew on a year-to-year calendar basis if the Project has not been completed, unless either party shall give written notice of termination to the other party at least 90 days prior to the end of the initial term of this Agreement or any renewal year of this Agreement. The entire Pumpkinvine Nature Trail Project area covered by this Agreement is owned and maintained by the City and shall continue to be owned and maintained by the City at the conclusion of the Project.
- It is further understood that the portion of the Project within the City shall be owned by the City and shall be maintained by the City. The remainder of the Project shall be owned by the County and shall be maintained by the County.
- The agreement requires approval by the Goshen Common Council, the City of Goshen Board of Public Works and Safety, the Elkhart County Commissioners and the Elkhart County Council.

**SUMMARY OF APRIL 22 , 2024 COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-08:**

**Mayor Leichty invited City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann to provide an overview of Resolutions 2024-08.**





**City Attorney Stegelmann** said **Resolution 2024-08** was an agreement between the City and Elkhart County for improving and paving the Pumpkinvine Trail from Lincoln Avenue to County Road 28. He said he provided a “redline” copy of the agreement showing changes since the draft agreement was provided to Councilors last week. He noted the changes in the agreement and provided the revised final version of the agreement (**EXHIBIT #1**).

**Stegelmann** said the agreement calls for the County to take the lead in making the improvements and issuing the bids for the project. The City would be responsible for paying for the improvements. He noted that fundraising was in progress, but if the bids came back too high, the City could still cancel this agreement if funds were not secured.

**Mayor Leichty** said the City is seeking funding from a number of sources, including a foundation and private donors to make the project a reality. She said the County was willing to include this project in its yearly transportation bid package, so the City could have some cost savings.

**Council President Weddell** said he has enjoyed using the Pumpkinvine Trail for many years and hopes to continue enjoying it for many more years. He said he looked forward to this potential change, noting that this project would pave the only remaining unpaved section of the trail. He thanked those who started the trail 30 years ago.

**Council President Weddell** made a motion to amend **Resolution 2024-08** by substituting the interlocal agreement included in the Council meeting packet with this version distributed by City Attorney **Bodie Stegelmann** at tonight’s meeting. Councilor **Peel** seconded the motion.

**Mayor Leichty** asked Councilors if they had any questions or comments about the motion to amend **Resolution 2024-08**. There were none.

At 6:12 p.m., **Mayor Leichty** invited public comments on the motion to amend **Resolution 2024-08**.

**Glenn Null of Goshen** said he has been attending Council meetings long before many present Councilors even considered running for the Council. So, he said he remembers the statement being made by the proponents of the Pumpkinvine Trail that no tax dollars would be spent on the project. He said the project has been discussed many times, but he would expect that statement to be honored.

**Null** said he will continue to object to the use of public funds for the Pumpkinvine Trail because a not-for-profit group started the project, property was acquired for the trail in a “questionable” way and the promise was made that no tax dollars would be spent on it. He said he wanted to remind the Council what was said in the past.

**Mayor Leichty** and **Council President Weddell** thanked **Null** for his comments.

**Mayor Leichty** said she wanted to note for the Council’s consideration that parks and trails are one of the most positive accelerants for increasing property values. So, as the Council considers improvements in parks and trails, she said Councilors should also consider that these are investments that also increase property values.

**Mayor Leichty** again asked Councilors if they had any questions or comments about the motion to amend **Resolution 2024-08**. There were none.





On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously approved amending Resolution 2024-08, *Interlocal Agreement with the County of Elkhart for the Improvement of the Pumpkinvine Trail*, as proposed by Councilors Weddell and Peel, by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting “yes,” at 6:14 p.m.

At 6:14 p.m., Mayor Leichty invited comments from Councilors or members of the public on Resolution 2024-08. There were none.

On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously approved Resolution 2024-08, *Interlocal Agreement with the County of Elkhart for the Improvement of the Pumpkinvine Trail*, by a 7-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting “yes,” at 6:14 p.m.

3) Resolution 2024-07 – A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Goshen, Indiana, Authorizing the Filing of an Application for a Community Development Block Grant

Mayor Leichty called for the introduction of Resolution 2024-07, *A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Goshen, Indiana, Authorizing the Filing of an Application for a Community Development Block Grant*. Council President Weddell asked the Clerk-Treasurer to read Resolution 2024-07 by title only, which was done.

Weddell/Nisley made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-07.

#### BACKGROUND:

Resolution 2024-07 would authorize the filing of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application (annual plan) for Program Year 2024.

In an April 15, 2024 memorandum to Council members, City Community Development Specialist Theresa Cummings wrote that the 2024 HUD allocation to Goshen has not yet been released and is estimated at \$270,000. Cummings reported that during the public comment period, no opposing comments were received, and no substantial changes were made to the draft plan that was discussed at the Council Meeting on March 25, 2024, other than minor edits. The plan is available at <http://goshenindiana.org/cdbg>.

Cummings wrote that upon authorization of the resolution, the application for funding can be filed when the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development releases allocation amounts.

#### SUMMARY OF APRIL 22, 2024 COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-07:

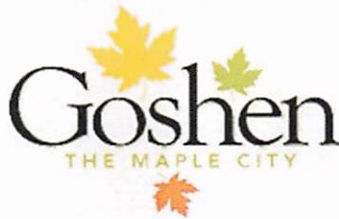
Mayor Leichty said she understood that two Councilors would be recusing themselves from voting on Resolution 2024-07.

Council President Weddell said he and Councilor Peel would be recusing themselves, at the recommendation of the City Legal Department, because both are associated with LaCasa.

(Council President Weddell is on the Board of LaCasa and Councilor Peel is employed by LaCasa.)

Council President Weddell said he and Councilor Peel would now leave the Council chamber and would not participate in the discussion of Resolution 2024-07. He added that Councilor Peel would serve as Acting Council President because he also would be leaving the meeting at this point.





**City Community Development Specialist Theresa** provided the background of Resolutions 2024-07. She said passage of the resolution would enable the city to file its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application (annual plan) for Program Year 2024.

**Cummings** said the plan was presented to the Council at its meeting on March 25, 2024 and no substantial changes have been made since then other than routine edits. She added that during the 30-day public comment period, no opposing public comments were received.

**Cummings** added that once the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development releases the final allocation amounts, the application for funding can be filed before the May filing deadline.

**Mayor Leichty** invited questions or comments from the Council. There were none.

At 6:17 p.m., **Mayor Leichty** invited public comments in Resolution 2024-07. There were none.

*On a voice vote, Councilors unanimously approved Resolution 2024-07, A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Goshen, Indiana, Authorizing the Filing of an Application for a Community Development Block Grant, by a 5-0 margin, with all Councilors present voting "yes," at 6:17 p.m.*

**Councilor Nisley** said he also would be leaving the Council meeting now. And **Councilor Peel** returned to the meeting.

#### **4) Presentation: City of Goshen Financial Report (Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver)**

**Mayor Leichty** invited Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Jeffery Weaver to provide the monthly City Financial Report, which is intended to help Councilors better oversee the City's budget and finances.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

As part of the agenda meeting packet, **Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Weaver** provided Councilors with a memo, dated April 22, 2024, which included six pages of data on the City's year-to-date cash balances, receipts and expenditures for general fund departments, special revenue funds, restricted funds and redevelopment restricted funds.

**Weaver** wrote that the Clerk-Treasurer's Office produces these reports upon month-end closing and makes them available to the Common Council and City management for review.

**Weaver** cautioned that the attached reports were unaudited and may include immaterial variances to payroll accruals or month-end closing adjustments. He wrote that the attached reports also supplement, but do not replace, other financial reports prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer's Office such as departmental financial reports or the Annual Financial Report published in Indiana's Gateway database.

**Cash balances summary:** The cash balance at the beginning of the year for Council-budgeted funds was \$87,716,180 and at the end of March was \$82,266,379

**Receipts summary:** Receipts for Council-budgeted funds totaled \$7,263,511 so far in the budget year, which reflects 12.7% of the budgeted receipts.





**Expenditures summary:** Expenditures in Council-budgeted funds totaled \$12,713,312 so far in the budget year. This amount included encumbrances, which are payments made in the current year but were approved as part of the prior-year budget. The original budget of \$75,559,462 and encumbrances of \$3,401,471 result in an effective budget of \$78,960,933. The City has spent 16.1% of this budget so far this year.

**DEPUTY CLERK-TREASURER WEAVER'S REPORT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL:**

**Mayor Leichty** invited comments from **Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Weaver**, whose report was included in the Council's agenda packet.

**Weaver** outlined his written report, which he said was a summary of select financial information for the first quarter of the year. He summarized the City's financial performance so far this year in budgeted funds, noting that receipts totaled about \$7.2 million and \$12.7 million in expenditures. This apparent imbalance, **Weaver** said, was expected because the City gets the bulk of its receipts in June and December.

**Weaver** said there was a request for comparative data, so in the future he is hoping to provide documentation comparing receipts and expenditures to prior years.

**Weaver** invited questions.

**Councilor Riegsecker** said he appreciated everything **Weaver** was doing on the financial reports and appreciated the Mayor having the financial report as part of the Council meeting each month.

**There were no other comments or questions on the financial report.**

**5) Presentation: Elkhart County Vibrancy Survey (Bil Murray of the Vibrant Communities Steering Committee & Community Task Force)**

**Mayor** invited a presentation from **Bil Murray** of Elkhart, a member of the of the Vibrant Communities Steering Committee & Community Task Force, on the 2023-2024 Vibrant Communities Survey.

**Murray** said he wanted to present good and positive information about Goshen and to share the results of the Vibrant Communities Survey conducted last year. He provided a summary using a 46-slide PowerPoint presentation, titled "Vibrant Communities" (**EXHIBIT #2**).

In partnership with **Dr. David Blouin** and students from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Indiana University South Bend, **Murray** said the survey was launched in June 2023. There were 5,000 random mailings and the survey was available on the Vibrant Communities website for anyone who wanted to respond.

**Murray** said there were about 390 responses countywide. Because of a low turnout among underrepresented minority groups, **Murray** said the survey was reopened between January and March 2024, boosting the total survey responses to 496. He said the representation of minorities was still low, but higher than before.

**Murray** said he would be distributing two handouts to Councilors with survey results from Goshen. The first document, which was seven pages, featured the survey responses from Goshen residents to a wide range of questions (**EXHIBIT #3**). The second document, which was 17 pages, featured demographic information on the Goshen respondents and responses to open-ended questions (**EXHIBIT #4**).

**Murray** said there were 132 responses from Goshen, which was second only to Elkhart, which had 250 responses.

**Murray** said that Vibrant Communities' first survey, in 2019, was based on "Soul of the Community" research by the Gallup Organization, which was funded by the Knight Foundation.





**Murray** said Gallup's nationwide research sought to determine how attached people felt to their communities, and not just if they "liked" their communities but whether they felt an emotional attachment to where they lived. He said the three most common factors that determine community attachment are: aesthetics or the look of a community (natural and man-made); social offerings (things to do); and openness (tolerance and inclusivity) for people of different backgrounds, persuasions and interests.

Vibrant Communities' leaders found those factors to be helpful, but **Murray** said they didn't believe they provided a broad enough indication of Elkhart County's vibrancy.

So, **Murray** said the 2023 Vibrant Communities survey assessed aesthetics, opportunities, resilience; neighborhood satisfaction and overall community satisfaction and positivity about the future.

Countywide, **Murray** said the results were "pretty consistent." He said the variances or differences in the results were found either in specific categories or items. For example, he said throughout Elkhart County, parks and trails are valued highly and Goshen had the highest ranking in this category.

**Murray provided this breakdown of the 132 survey respondents in Goshen:**

- 77% female
- 77% Caucasian; 11% Hispanic
- 64% 20+ years in Elkhart County
- 73% Married
- 86% own their home
- 65% have no children at home

**Murray** said countywide there were similar results, with a greater response from older people.

**Murray said five areas were surveyed:**

1. Attachment
2. Opportunity
3. Resilience
4. Neighborhood Satisfaction
5. Community Satisfaction–Attachment

**Murray** said Goshen's combined **attachment** score, which was determined by respondents' perceptions of openness, social offerings and aesthetics, was 3.73 on a 5-point scale.

Respondents were surveyed on **opportunity**, which was defined as "the capacity to live a good life" and included both the quality and quantity of what a community offers. This measurement includes entrepreneurship, education and professional development, access to health resources and housing, employment and financial stability.

In this category, **Murray** said Goshen respondents gave a combined score of 3.73 on a 5-point scale. Countywide, he said the scores were consistent except for education and professional development, which ranked higher in Goshen (at 3.46 on a 5-point scale) than other parts of the county.

**Murray** said this metric is similar to research by the Third Way, a national think tank based in Washington, D.C. which has ranked 203 broad communities based on mean household income, housing costs, costs of living and access to health care. Third way ranked Rochester, Minnesota first and San Francisco last in the country. Elkhart-Goshen was ranked 51 and South Bend-Mishawaka was ranked 93.





Respondents were surveyed on **resilience**, which was defined as “the sustained ability to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand and recover from adverse situations.” This measurement includes health & well-being, economy & financial infrastructure, social infrastructure, physical infrastructure & natural environment and local governance & planning.

**Murray** said Goshen ranked about the same as the rest of the county in this category. However, in health and well-being, Goshen gave a rating that was significantly higher than other areas of the county, with a rating of 4.01 on a 5-point scale. Goshen also gave a higher score in social infrastructure – 3.90 on a 5-point scale.

Respondents were also surveyed on **neighborhood satisfaction**, which measures “the extent to which residents’ expectations are met or exceeded” and reflects perceptions about respect for people and property, safety and shared beliefs and actions. This measurement includes questions about perceptions of commonality, involvement, treatment of property, and respect and trust.

**Murray** said Goshen had a combined rating of 3.83 on a 5-point scale, which included a “treatment of property” score of 4.23 on a 5-point scale, which was one of the highest such scores in the county.

Finally, there were survey questions to determine **community satisfaction**, which included responses to such statements as: My community is a very good place for me; I feel like I belong here; and I am proud of where I live.

In this category, Goshen had a combined score of 4.06 on a 5-point scale. Countywide, more than 80% of respondents agreed (and 9.5% disagreed) with the statement, “I am hopeful about the future of my community.”

**Murray** also described the additional detailed information he was providing to the Council. He said there were many outstanding responses to the open-ended questions. **Murray** also said consistently there were lower scores regarding the county’s economic infrastructure, but he believes that may be more a matter of people not knowing about the available resources that are available.

**Murray** invited questions from Councilors.

**Councilor Schrock** asked whether the lack of knowledge about resources might also apply to the rest of the state.

**Murray** said he would guess that was true.

**Councilor Peel** asked if the survey was offered in Spanish. **Murray** said it was offered in Spanish online and there were also personal interviews. Interestingly, **Murray** said the vast majority of respondents who identified as Hispanic, answered the survey in English.

**Councilor Schrock** said he understands that the Pumpkinvine Trail in Goshen is ranked first or second in the state and attracts people throughout the Midwest, adding that it is a “huge asset” for the City. **Murray** agreed and said that the open-ended comments about parks, trails and waterways are popular in Goshen and throughout the county.

**Mayor Leichty** thanked **Murray** for his presentation and the efforts to assess the county’s vibrancy.

### Elected Official Reports

**Mayor Leichty** asked Councilors if they had any reports from the Boards and Commissions they serve on.

**Councilor Peel** said the **Community Relations Commission** has not met since the last Council meeting and she will not have a report until the next Council meeting.





**Councilor Lederach** said the **Board of Aviation Commissioners** met today. He said **Airport Manager Randy Sharkey** wanted Councilors to know they were invited to the free "Fly-in" luncheon on First Friday, May 3.

**Mayor Leichty** explained that pilots throughout the Midwest fly to the Goshen Airport for the Fly-in luncheon. She said attending presents a great opportunity to meet visitors and is also a good hospitality opportunity for the City.

**Councilor Schrock** said property owners on East Lincoln Avenue recently cleaned up a lot of dead trees and brush in the area looks and it looks much better. He thanked all involved for doing this.

**Councilor Riegsecker** asked for an update on the roundabout on the west side of town, by Reliance Road.

**City Director of Public Works & Utilities Dustin Sailor** said starting Wednesday, the City will be blocking more traffic to continue work on Reliance Road by Highway 33. He said a pedestrian path is being installed by Elkhart County. He said work is starting on retention ponds along with other improvements on Reliance Road. Sailor said the City is also awaiting work by NIPSCO to relocate electric power poles and gas lines.

**Councilor Riegsecker** asked if access into and out of Reliance Road from Highway 33 would be closed. **Sailor** said it would be closed and barricades also will be installed at Peddler's Village Road.

**Councilor Riegsecker** asked if County Road 28 could still be used to reach County Road 17.

**Sailor** said that route can still be used, but eventually it will need to be temporarily closed. He said the City has experienced some delays from utility companies. He added that the City's goal is to complete the Reliance Road improvements as well as the roundabout, but it might take another year to finish the Peddler's Village Road work.

**Councilor Riegsecker** asked if there will be a traffic signal at Highway 33 and Reliance Road. **Sailor** said there will be and a roundabout at Peddler's Village Road and Reliance Road.

**Sailor** said the City hopes this roundabout will change the community's perception of roundabouts. He said the City's first roundabout, on Dierdorff Road, "is undersized and didn't do justice to what roundabouts can do for traffic movement."

**Councilor Riegsecker** said he believes roundabouts are good. He said there are extensive roundabouts in Florida as well as Indianapolis, which is said to have more than 400. **Sailor** said it was the "roundabout capital."

**Councilor Schrock** said that delays caused by utility companies didn't seem to be a new thing.

**Councilor Gerber** said she appreciated receiving the City's recent advisory that the federal Environmental Protection Agency would be conducting community interviews in Goshen from April 23 through April 25, regarding the North 5th Street Superfund site (in 2015, a plume of chlorinated solvents was found in the four municipal wells at the site). She encouraged those interested to provide feedback.

**Councilor Riegsecker** said that communication between the City Council and the Mayor's Office has been very good, adding, "It's very conducive to us getting things done as a community and making sure that we help most of the people in the community that want us to do a good job for everybody. I really appreciate how it's going."

**Mayor Leichty** thanked **Councilor Riegsecker** for his comments. She also commended her staff members for facilitating the EPA communication as she was leaving for vacation.

**There were no further Council comments or questions.**





Councilor Peel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Riegsecker seconded the motion. By a voice vote, Councilors unanimously, by a 5-0 margin, approved the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Leichty adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

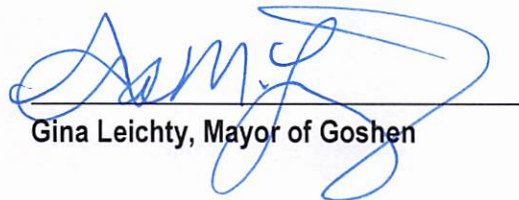
**EXHIBIT #1:** *The final Interlocal Agreement for the Improvement of the Pumpkinvine. The 12-page agreement between the City of Goshen and Elkhart County, sets forth the terms and conditions for improving and paving the Pumpkinvine Trail, from Lincoln Avenue to County Road 28. City Attorney Bodie Stegelmann provided this revised and final version of the draft agreement to replace the one previously provided to Councilors. Councilors substituted this final agreement with the draft and approved it at the meeting.*

**EXHIBIT #2:** *A 46-slide PowerPoint presentation, titled "Vibrant Communities," that Bil Murray of Elkhart, a member of the of the Vibrant Communities Steering Committee & Community Task Force, used in summarizing of the Vibrant Communities Survey conducted last year.*

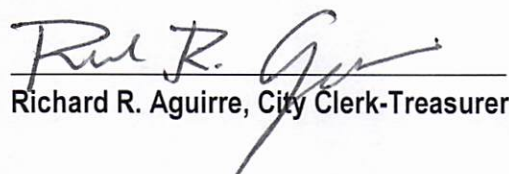
**EXHIBIT #3:** *A seven-page document, titled "2023-2024 Vibrant Communities Survey," with survey responses from Goshen residents to a wide range of questions. The document was distributed to Councilors by Bil Murray of Elkhart, a member of the of the Vibrant Communities Steering Committee & Community Task Force, during his presentation to the Council.*

**EXHIBIT #4:** *A 17-page document, titled "Vibrant Communities Elkhart County 2023 Community Survey," with demographic information on Goshen survey respondents and responses to open-ended survey questions. The document was distributed to Councilors by Bil Murray of Elkhart, a member of the of the Vibrant Communities Steering Committee & Community Task Force, during his presentation to the Council.*

APPROVED:

  
Gina Leichty, Mayor of Goshen

ATTEST:

  
Richard R. Aguirre, City Clerk-Treasurer



**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**  
**FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PUMPKIN VINE TRAIL**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into effective as of the last date of signature hereon by and between the CITY OF GOSHEN, INDIANA (hereinafter referred to as "City") and the COUNTY OF ELKHART, INDIANA (hereinafter referred to as "County").

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, City wishes to improve the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail;

WHEREAS, a portion of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail from State Road 4 to County Road 28 is located within the corporate boundary of the City and a portion is located outside the corporate boundary of the City;

WHEREAS, County wishes to support the improvement of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail;

WHEREAS, County and City agree that cooperating to improve the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail is in both of their best interests;

WHEREAS, City and County enter into this Agreement to:

- A. Identify the duties and responsibilities of City and County in regard to the desired "Pumpkinvine Improvement Project," also herein referred to as the "Project;" and
- B. Seek to obtain financial participation by other community sources.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the following terms, conditions, and commitments, the parties agree as follows:

**PROJECT**

This Agreement defines the initially planned "Project" for improvements to and paving of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail ("Trail") from State Road 4 to County Road 28 in Elkhart County, Indiana. The Project consists of the planning, funding, designing, engineering, bidding, constructing, inspecting, and overseeing of the Project.

**DESIGN CONSULTANT**

- a. County shall serve as the "Design Consultant" on the Project. County shall provide the engineering and design work necessary for bidding and inspection of the Project.
- b. The engineering and design standards for the Project shall be subject to the approval of the County and City.



## LEAD AGENCY

County shall serve as the Lead Agency for the Project. County agrees to be responsible for the overall administration of the Project including but not necessarily limited to the following:

- a. Bidding and awarding the Project in compliance with governmental requirements applicable to City and County, for the bidding of public works projects.
- b. Obtaining any governmental permits or approvals required to construct the Project.
- c. Administering any contract or contracts awarded to a successful bidder or bidders on the Project.
- d. Providing engineering review and construction inspection services for the Project to the extent that such are not the responsibility of the successful bidder or bidders.
- e. Maintaining the documents, contracts, notices, and other records connected with the Project.
- f. Providing the City with a financial summary of all funds needed for the Project, all funds received for the Project, and all funds expended on the Project, to include specifically the responsibility of City to fund the amounts needed for the Project.

## CITY PARTICIPATION

While County shall serve as the Lead Agency, City and County acknowledge that such is tied largely to the County providing the Design Consultant services contemplated under "Lead Agency" above. City shall be significantly involved with the Project. City's participation shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- a. City shall review and approve the Project engineering and design, though such engineering and design shall be provided by County as part of the Lead Agency role set forth above.
- b. City shall fund all direct and indirect construction costs associated with the Project, with the acknowledged desire and intent of County and City to seek cost-sharing participation by third parties, which shall serve to diminish the costs of City for such direct or indirect construction costs. Direct and indirect construction costs associated with the Project shall include Trail drainage and repairs needed preparatory to paving, change orders, and compaction and materials testing.
- c. City shall appropriate and have available for use by County, all funds required of City for its share of the direct and indirect construction costs, it being acknowledged that the transfer of such funds to County must occur essentially simultaneous with the Notice to Proceed with the Project, or even in advance thereof, as County is not in a position to advance the funds for the construction costs associated with the Project.



**TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE; DURATION OF PROJECT**

a. City and County agree to cooperate so that the engineering and design and preliminary bidding process can be completed in time to receive bids for the Project by the end of May, 2024.

b. City may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice of termination to County no later than sixty (60) days after receipt of the bids. Alternatively, in the event City fails to provide the necessary funding for the Project to County within sixty (60) days after the receipt of bids, County may terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to City.

c. The parties contemplate that all construction shall commence and be completed during the calendar year 2024; however, should unexpected difficulties or delays occur, the Project may extend the completion date by written acknowledgement executed by the parties hereto.

d. Time is of the essence with regard to constructing the Project. City and County agree to communicate with each other in establishing a construction schedule that will allow the Project to be completed in a timely fashion consistent with subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.

e. This Agreement shall be in effect through December 31, 2024 and shall thereafter automatically renew on a year-to-year calendar basis if the Project has not been completed, unless either party shall give written notice of termination to the other party at least ninety (90) days prior to the end of the initial term of this Agreement or any renewal year of this Agreement.

**OWNER OF PROJECT**

The entire Pumpkinvine Nature Trail Project area covered by this Agreement is owned and maintained by City and shall continue to be owned and maintained by City at the conclusion of the Project.

**FILING REQUIREMENTS**

Within thirty (30) days after the approval and execution of this Agreement, County shall have this Agreement recorded and filed with the appropriate governmental offices and agencies as required by Indiana Code.

**SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS**

City and County agree to execute and all supplementary documents and to take any and all supplementary steps as are reasonable and appropriate to accomplish the purposes and provisions of this Agreement.

**LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY**



a. City acknowledges that County shall not be liable to City for completion of or the failure to complete any activities which are an obligation of City to perform pursuant to this Agreement, and City agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless County and its agents, officers, and employees from all claims and suits of any nature whatsoever arising from City's performance of this Agreement, from all judgments therefore, and for all expenses in defending or appealing any claims or judgments, including without limitation court costs, attorney's fees, and other expenses.

b. County acknowledges that City shall not be liable to County for completion of or the failure to complete any activities which are an obligation of County to perform pursuant to this Agreement, and County agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless City and its agents, officers, and employees from all claims and suits of any nature whatsoever arising from County's performance of this Agreement, from all judgments therefore, and for all expenses in defending or appealing any claim or judgments, including without limitation court costs, attorney's fees, and other expenses.

#### NON-DISCRIMINATION

Pursuant to Indiana Code 22-9-1-10, neither County nor any of its contractors or subcontractors shall discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment, to be employed in the performance of any work under this Agreement with respect to hire, tenure, terms or conditions or privileges of employment, or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, or veteran status. Breach of this covenant may be regarded as a material breach of this Agreement.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

a. Amendment. This Agreement, and any exhibits attached, may be amended only by the mutual written consent of the parties, by the adoption of a resolution approving said amendment as provided by law, and by the execution of an amendment by the parties.

b. No Other Agreement. Except as otherwise expressly provided, this Agreement supersedes all prior agreements, negotiations, and discussions relative to the subject matter and is a full integration of the agreement of the parties.

c. Severability. If any provision, covenant, agreement, or portion of this Agreement or its application to any person, entity, or property is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the application or validity of any other provisions, covenants, agreements, or portions of this Agreement, and to that end, any provisions, covenants, agreements, or portions of this Agreement are declared to be severable.

d. Indiana Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Indiana.

e. Notice. Any notices required or permitted under this Agreement shall be given to the parties at their respective mailing addresses provided below by deposit in the United States mail:



County: Board of Commissioners of the County of Elkhart, Indiana  
c/o Jeff Taylor, County Administrator  
Elkhart County Administration Building  
117 North Second Street  
Goshen, IN 46526  
Fax: (574) 535-6747  
Email: [jtaylor@elkhartcounty.com](mailto:jtaylor@elkhartcounty.com)

City: City of Goshen, Indiana  
Board of Public Works  
c/o Mayor Gina Leichty  
202 South Fifth Street  
Goshen, IN 46526  
Fax: (574) 533-3074  
Email: [mayor@goshencity.com](mailto:mayor@goshencity.com)

with copies to:

Bodie Stegelman  
Goshen City Attorney  
Municipal Annex Building  
204 East Jefferson Street  
Goshen, IN 46528  
Fax: (574) 537-3871  
Email: [bodiestegelman@goshencity.com](mailto:bodiestegelman@goshencity.com)

and

Craig Buche  
Elkhart County Attorney  
Yoder Ainlay Ulmer & Buckingham, LLP  
130 North Main Street  
Goshen, IN 46527  
Fax: (574) 534-4174  
Email: [craig.buche@ya.law](mailto:craig.buche@ya.law)

The parties may change their respective mailing addresses by providing written notice of the new address in accordance with the terms and provisions of this paragraph.

BINDING EFFECT

**This Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective successors and assigns; provided, however, that this Agreement may not be assigned without the express written consent of the non-assigning party.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have duly executed this Agreement pursuant to all requisite authorizations effective as of the date first above written.**

*[signatures on separate sheet]*



Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF ELKHART, INDIANA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Rogers, President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne Weirick

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Barnes

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia A. Pickens  
Elkhart County Auditor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

CITY OF GOSHEN, INDIANA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gina Leichty, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard R. Aguirre  
Clerk-Treasurer



EXHIBIT #2



# VIBRANT

## COMMUNITIES



[www.VibrantElkhartCounty.org](http://www.VibrantElkhartCounty.org)

The logo for Vibrant Communities is centered on a dark blue rectangular background. It features the word "VIBRANT" in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Below it, the word "COMMUNITIES" is written in a smaller, all-caps, white, sans-serif font. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the text, each curving slightly upwards at the ends.

# VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

We are a movement across Elkhart County uniting our residents and leaders to engage, advocate and celebrate quality of place initiatives by giving people a platform to share their ideas to help shape the economic growth and well-being of our community.

**#LoveWhereYouLive**



# 2023 Elkhart County Vibrancy Survey

Partnership between Vibrant Communities, ECCVB and IUSB Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Financial support from the Community Foundation & ECCVB

Survey (mail, online, in-person) of county residents' perceptions of "quality of place"

Residents asked to rate their communities in terms of important issues such social offerings, opportunities, resources, openness, and personal attachment.

Survey was also conducted in 2019 & 2021







**VIBRANT**  
COMMUNITIES















# THE SURVEY RESULTS

**VIBRANT**  
COMMUNITIES



# Demographics – The Sample



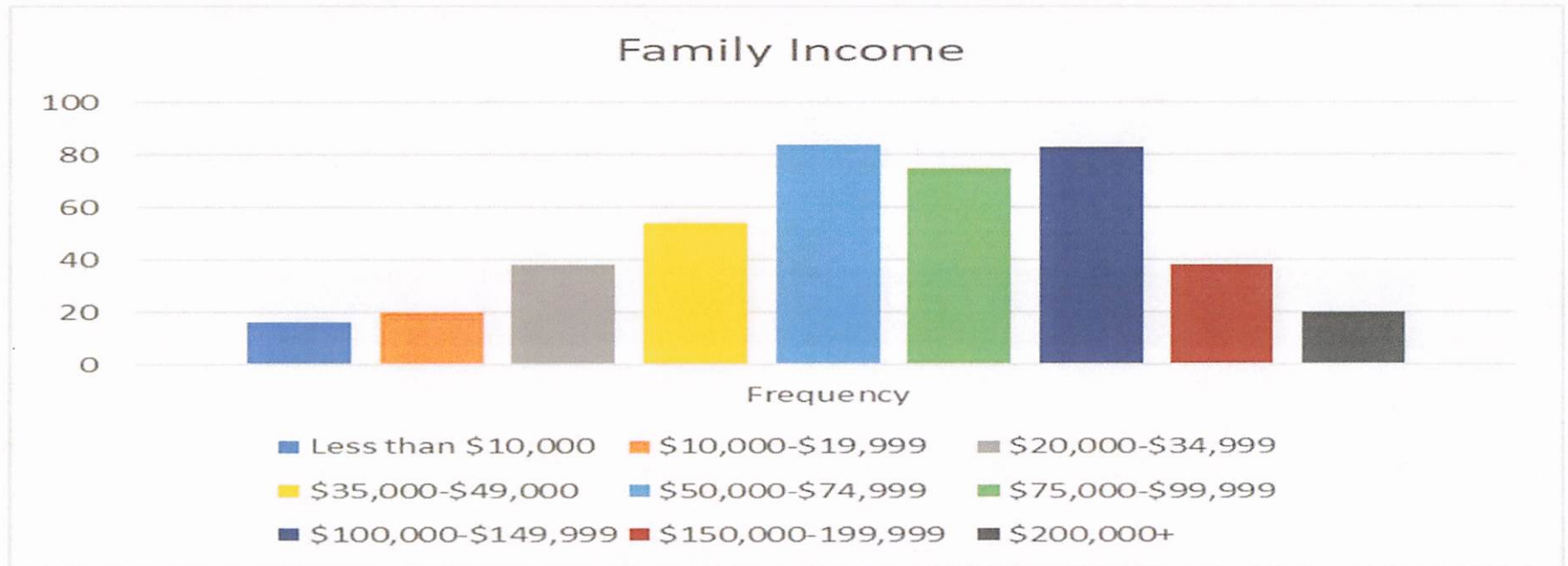
## **132 Respondents/ Our general participant:**

- **Female – 77.3%**
- **Boomers & Gen X – 57.3**
- **Married – 72.7%**
- **White – 77.3%; Hispanic 10.6%**
- **Above high school education – 80+%**
- **No children in household – 65.2%%**
- **Lived in Goshen 20+ years – 64.4%**
- **Owned their home – 86.4%**





# County Income



**The income of our participants' households followed a normal curve and sampled some from every range.**

# Dimensions of Community Vibrancy

ATTACHMENT

OPPORTUNITY

RESILIENCE

NEIGHBORHOOD  
SATISFACTION

COMMUNITY  
SATISFACTION



# Attachment



# ATTACHMENT

"Community attachment is an emotional connection to a place that transcends satisfaction, loyalty, and even passion." *The Soul of a Community*

**Measured by a series of questions assessing residents' perceptions of their city/town's:**

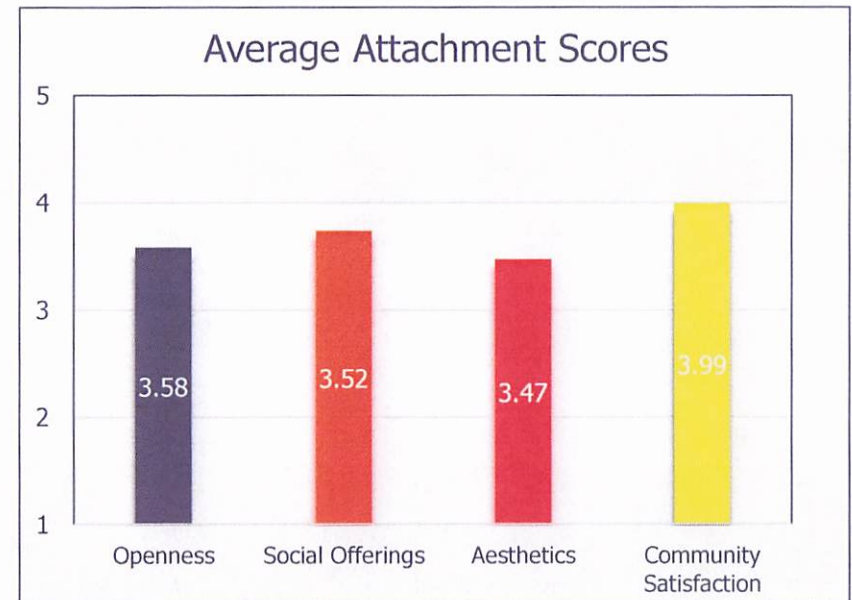
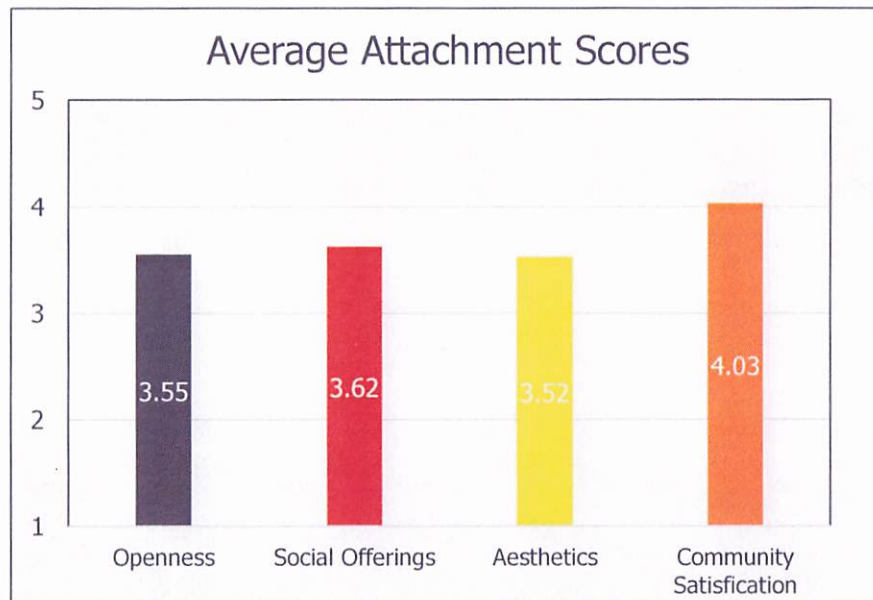
- Openness
- Social Offerings
- Aesthetics



# Attachment Findings

**2021 (3.68)**

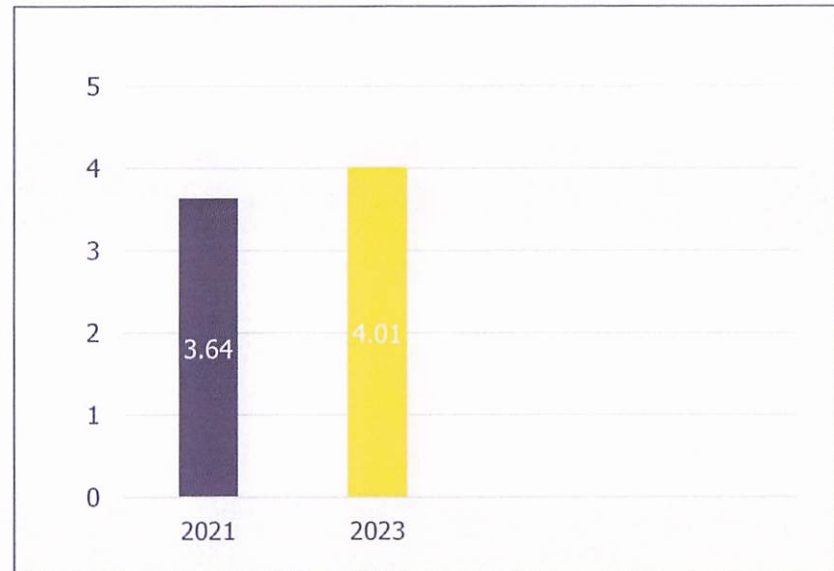
**2023 (3.71)**



- Very good =5; Somewhat good=4; Neither good nor bad =3; Somewhat bad=2; Very bad=1

# Comparing 2021 and 2023

- **How would you rate the availability of community events, such as festivals, parades, and street fairs in your town?**
- There was a positive increase from 3.64 in 2021 to 4.01 in 2023.



- Very good =5; Somewhat good=4; Neither good nor bad =3; Somewhat bad=2; Very bad=1



# Goshen

Attachment Average: 3.73

- Openness: 3.60
- Social Offerings: 3.89
- Aesthetics: 3.69



**Opportunity**

**VIBRANT**  
COMMUNITIES



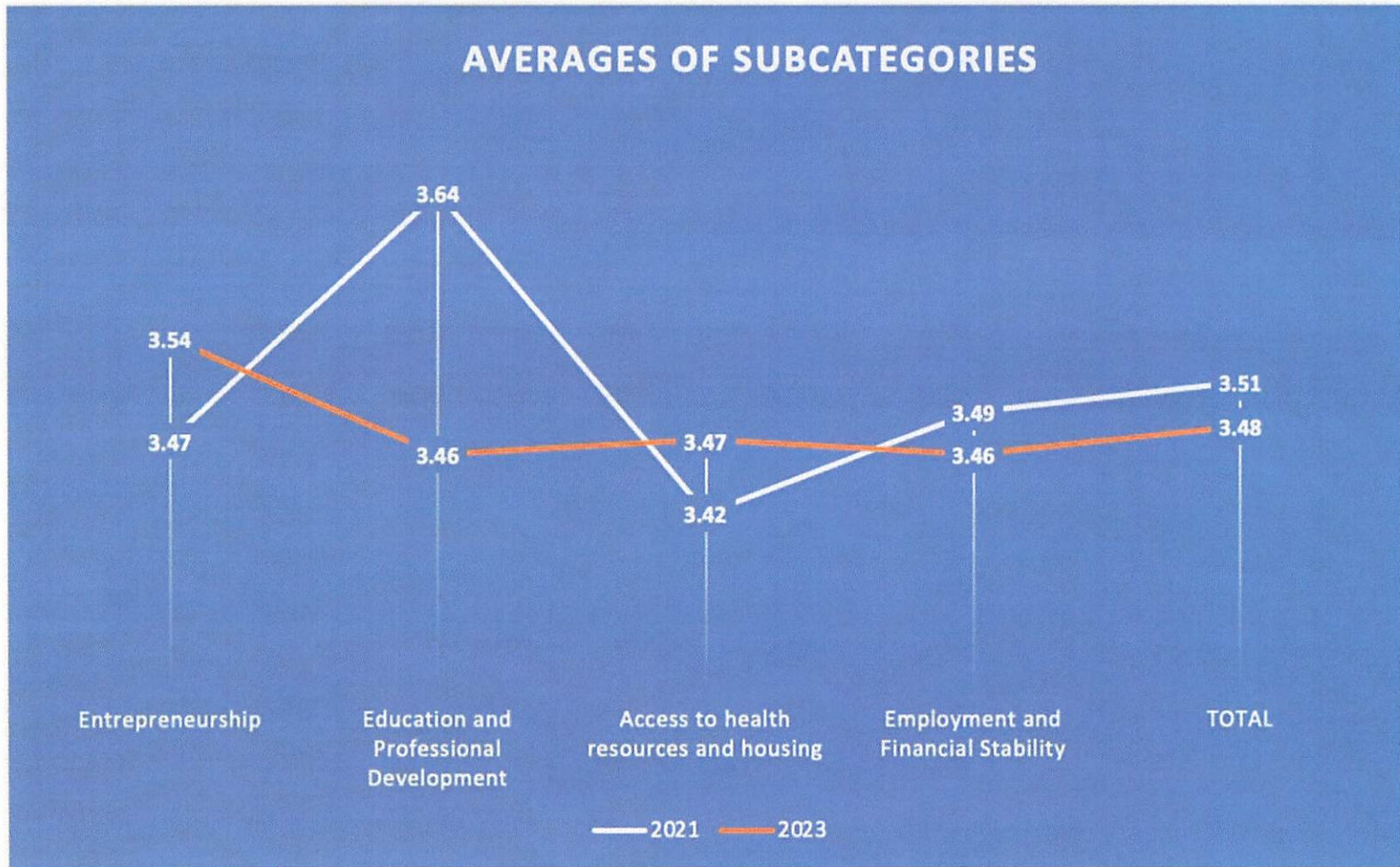
# OPPORTUNITY

Opportunity refers to the capacity to live a good life. It considers both the quality and quantity of what a community offers. *Third Way*

**Measured by a series of questions assessing residents' perceptions of opportunities in:**

- Entrepreneurship
- Education & Professional Development
- Access to Health Resources & Housing
- Employment & Financial Stability

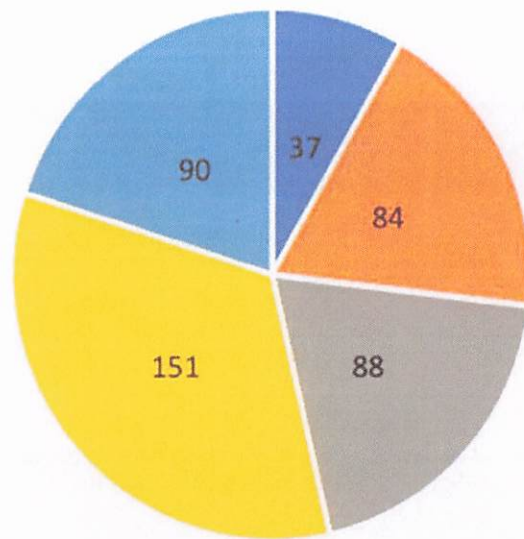
# Opportunity Findings





# The Quality of Public Schools

The Quality of Public Schools



- 2021 average: 3.68
- 2023 average: 3.38

■ Very Bad ■ Somewhat Bad ■ Neither good nor bad ■ Somewhat Good ■ Very Good

## Quality of Internet Access

2021 average: 3.31

2023 average: 3.66

2023 Survey Format	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	20	4.5%
Somewhat disagree	59	13.1%
Neutral	77	17.1%
Somewhat agree	191	42.5%
Strongly Agree	102	22.7%
Total	449	
Average	3.66	



# Goshen



Opportunity Average: 3.59

- Entrepreneurship: 3.25
- Education & Professional Development: 3.72
- Access to Health Resources & Housing: 3.86
- Employment & Financial Stability: 3.53

# Resilience





# RESILIENCE

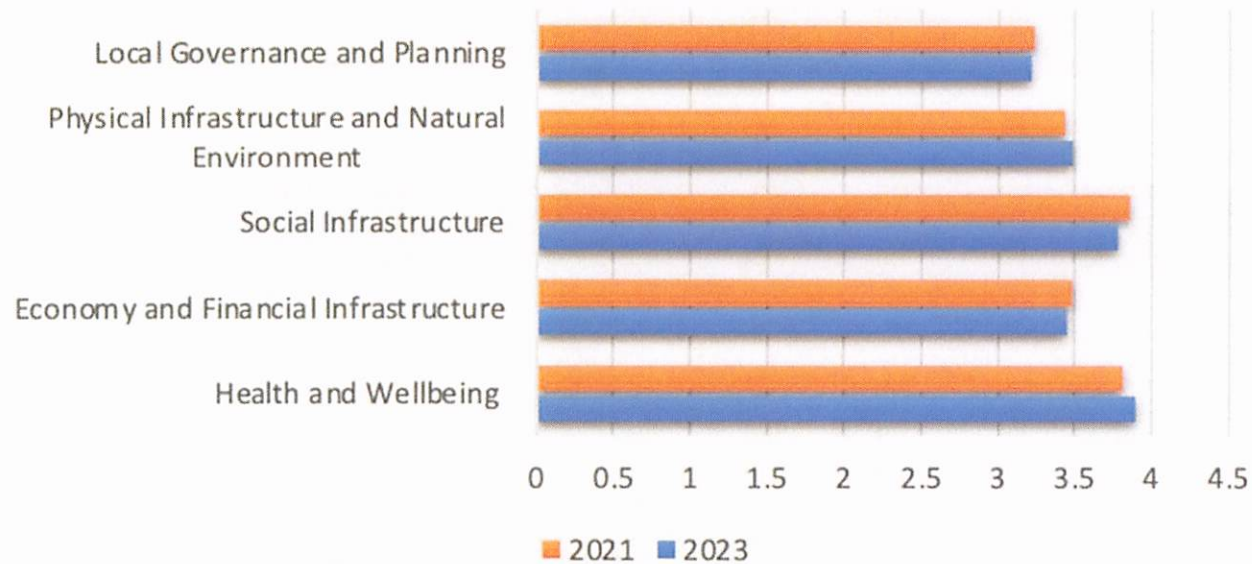
“Community Resilience is the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations” *Rand Corporation*

**Measured by a series of questions assessing residents' perceptions of their city/town's:**

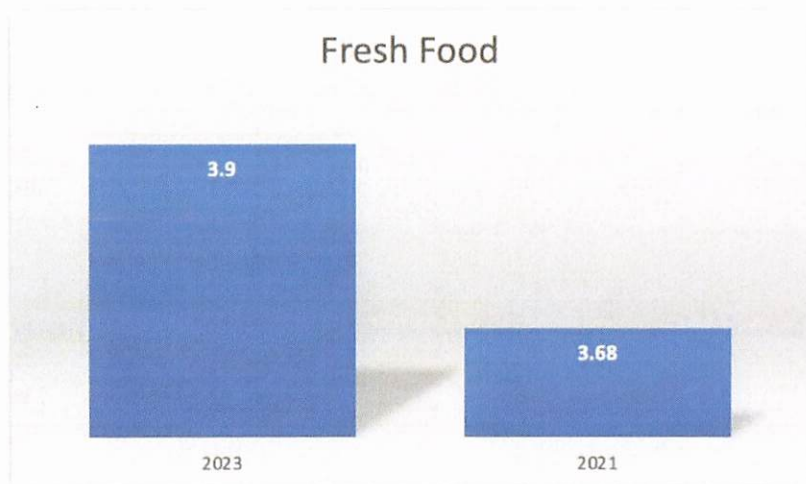
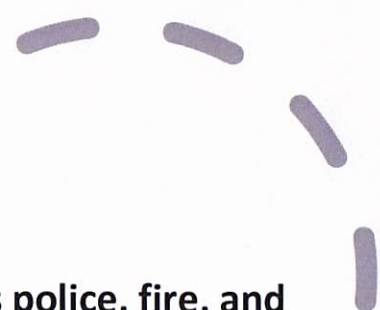
- Health & Well-Being
- Economy & Financial Infrastructure
- Social Infrastructure
- Physical Infrastructure & Natural Environment
- Local Governance & Planning

## Sub-dimensions of Resilience

2021 average: 3.57 2023 average: 3.56







**Question: Critical services such as police, fire, and ambulance are reliable**

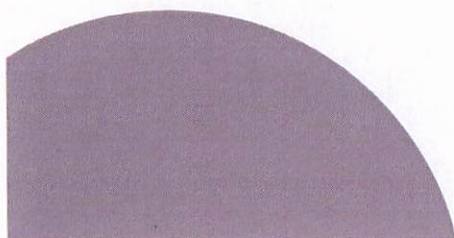
2021 average: 4.28

2023 average: 4.42 (+ .14)

**Question: People who live in my town have easy access to fresh food**

2021 average: 3.68

2023 average: 3.9 (+ .22)



# Goshen



Resilience Average: 3.66

- Health & Well-being: 4.01
- Economy & Financial Infrastructure: 3.46
- Social Infrastructure: 3.90
- Physical Infrastructure & Natural Environment: 3.63
- Local Governance & Planning: 3.30



# Neighborhood Satisfaction



# NEIGHBORHOOD SATISFACTION

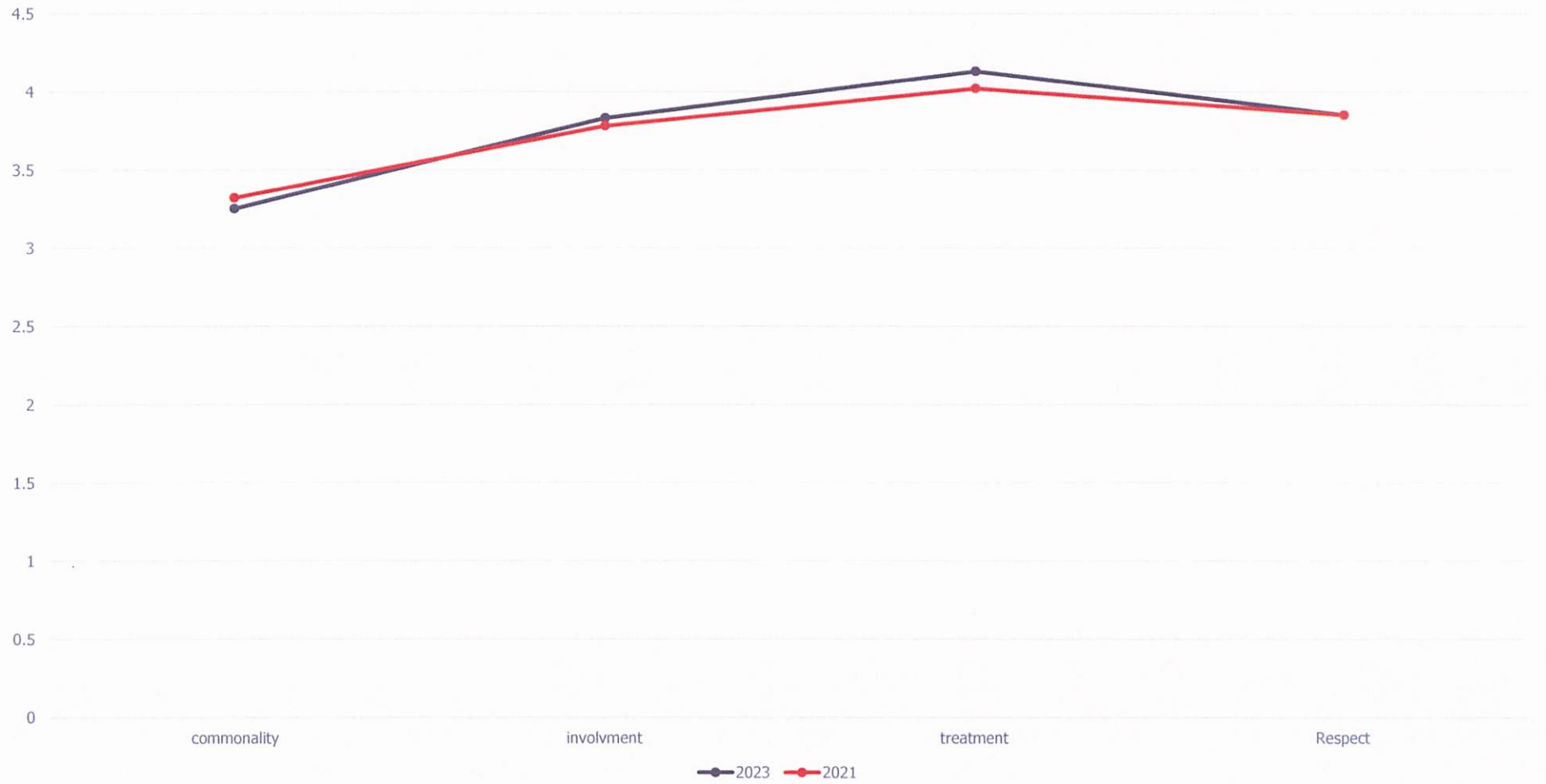
Neighborhood Satisfaction measures the extent to which residents' expectations are met or exceeded. It reflects perceptions about respect for people and property and safety as well as shared beliefs and actions.

**Measured by a series of questions assessing residents' perceptions of their neighborhood in terms of:**

- Commonality
- Involvement
- Treatment of Property
- Respect & Trust



Average of Sub-category



# Feeling Safe

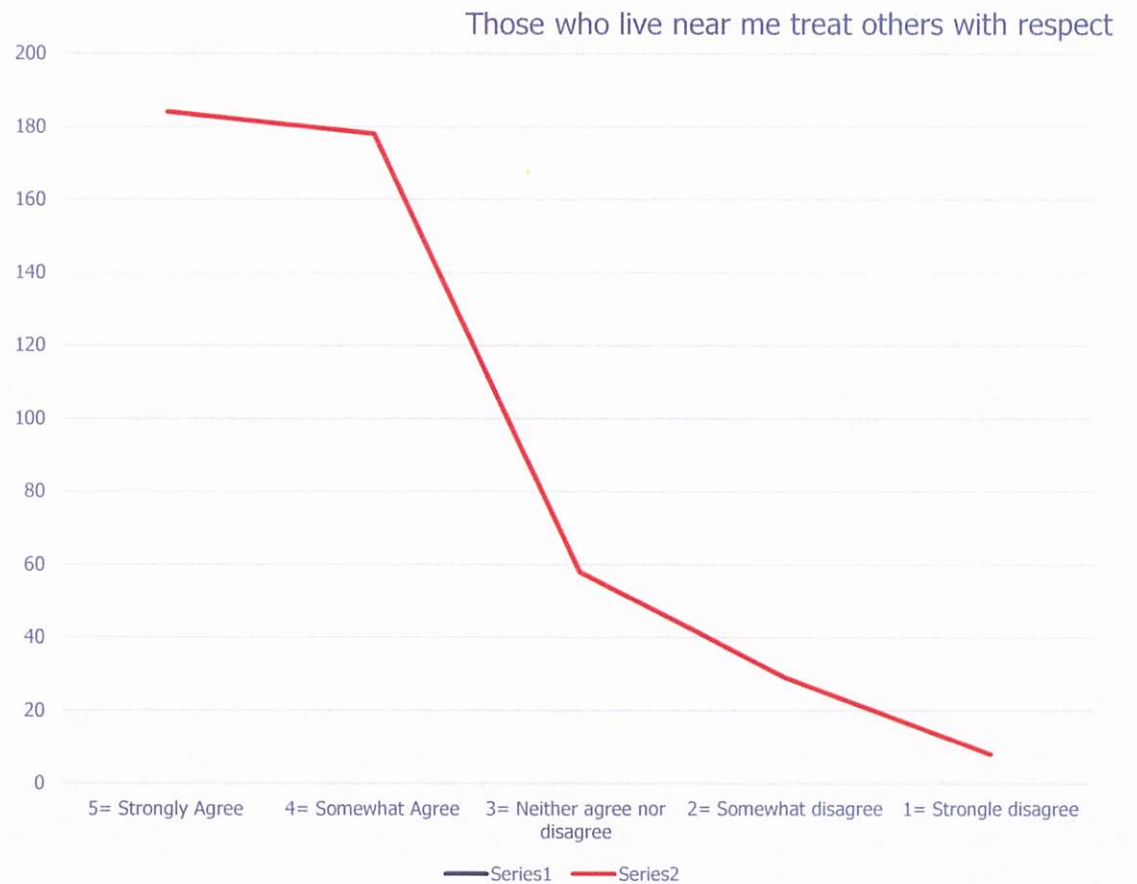
- The mean score consisted of 4.23 in the year of 2023.





# Respect

- The mean score for 2023 was 4.08.



# Goshen

Neighborhood Satisfaction  
Average: 3.83

- Commonality: 3.27
- Involvement: 3.87
- Treatment of Property: 4.24
- Respect & Trust: 3.93

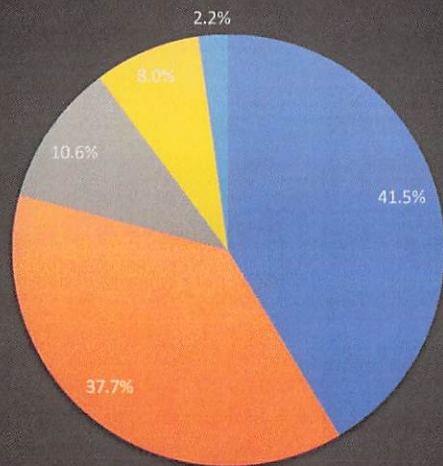




# Community Satisfaction

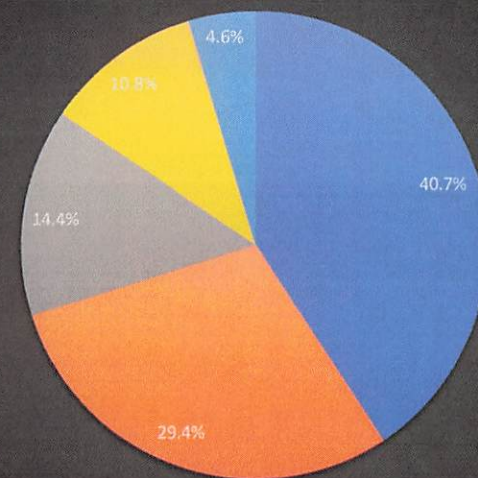


### My Community is a very good place for me



■ Strongly Agree    ■ Somewhat Agree    ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree  
■ Somewhat Disagree    ■ Strongly Disagree

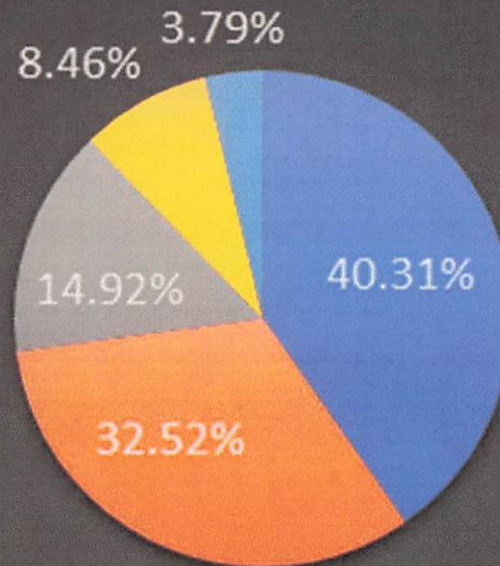
### I feel like I belong here



■ Strongly Agree    ■ Somewhat Agree    ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree  
■ Somewhat Disagree    ■ Strongly Disagree



# I am proud of where I live



- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

# Goshen



Community Satisfaction Average: 4.06

- "My community is a very good place for me": 4.19
- "I feel like I belong here": 3.89
- "I am proud of where I live": 4.09



# Goshen Comments



# Goshen Comments: Likes

- "Affordability"
- "Always looking to improve"
- "Artistic scene"
- "Community events"
- "Diversity"
- "Miles of walking and bicycle trails"
- "I know my neighbors and feel I have a supportive community"
- "It's home. It's where I live, work, play and volunteer."



# Goshen Comments: Dislikes

- Traffic
- Roads upkeep
- Railroad crossings
- Perceived Racism/Intolerance
- Perceived decline of school system/Teachers leaving
- Litter/Unkempt properties
- “Winter”

# Key Take-Aways: Elkhart County





# Key Take-Aways: Elkhart County

- Increasing availability of community events such as festivals
- Drop in perception of quality of public schools (some communities)
- Enthusiasm for quality of internet access increased
- Fewer agreeing that people are generous in supporting non-profits
- Widespread, and increasing agreement in the reliability of police, fire, and ambulance services
- Residents report that their neighborhoods are safe (4.2), that they know people who live nearby (4.0), and that their neighbors respect their property (4.3)

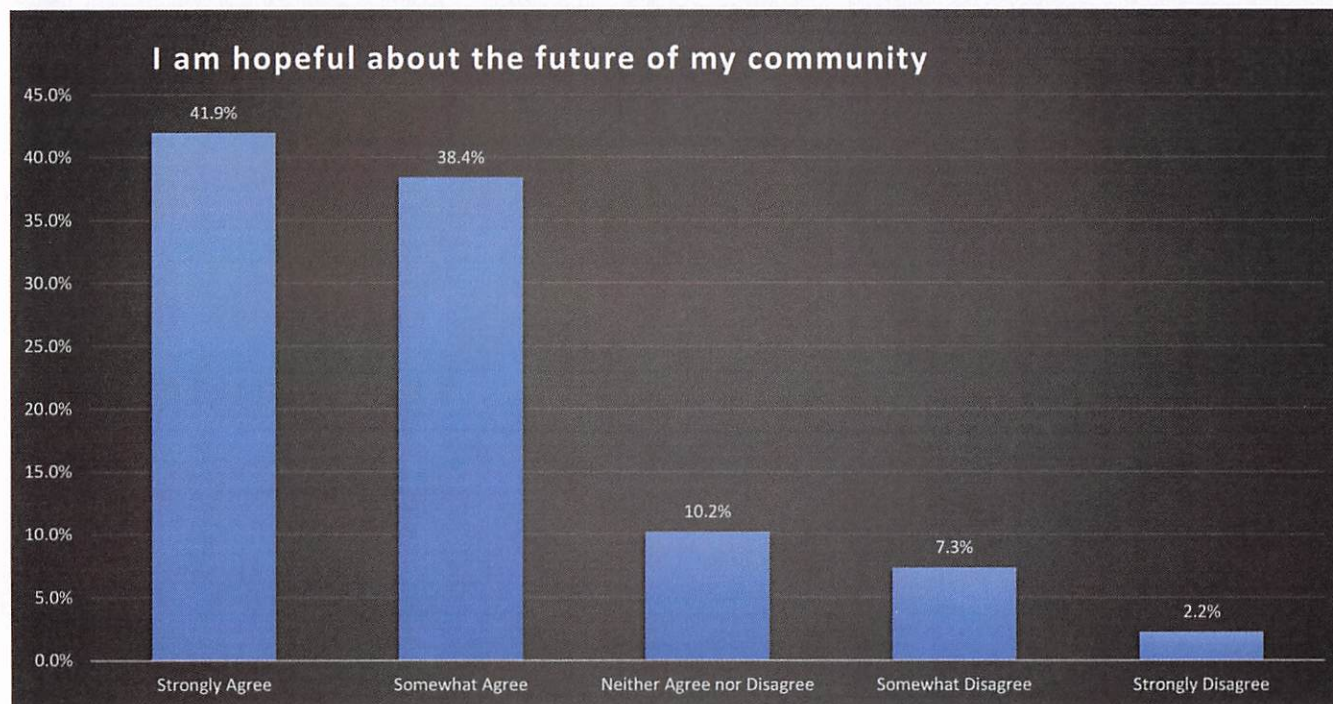
# Goshen's Vibrant Communities Action Agenda 2.0

- Long term
- Emphasis on Downtowns, Parks and Trails, Arts and Culture, Neighborhoods, Volunteerism
- Ambitious (yet do-able)
- Distinct emphasis on natural environment
- Consistent with survey results and comments



# Hopeful about the Future of my Community

- More than 80% Agree!



**Thank you!**

[www.VibrantElkhartCounty.org](http://www.VibrantElkhartCounty.org)

**#LoveWhereYouLive**

**VIBRANT**  
COMMUNITIES



## 2023-2024 Vibrant Communities Survey

Municipality: **Goshen**

132 Surveys entered

- 77% female
- 77% Caucasian; 11% Hispanic
- 64% 20+ years in Elkhart County
- 73% Married
- 86% own their home
- 65% have no children at home

Five Sections plus open ended questions

1. Attachment
2. Opportunity
3. Resilience
4. Neighborhood Satisfaction
5. Community Satisfaction

**Attachment** is an emotional connection to a community that transcends satisfaction, loyalty and even passion.

Openness	3.60
Social Offerings	3.89
Aesthetics	3.69
<b>Combined</b>	<b>3.73</b>

**Opportunity** is the capacity to live a good life. It consider both the quality and quantity of what a community offers.

Entrepreneurship	3.56
Education and Professional Development	3.53
Access to health resources and housing	3.55
Employment and Financial Stability	3.46
<b>Combined</b>	<b>3.53</b>

**Resilience** in a community is the sustained ability to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand and recover from adverse situations.

Health & Well-being	4.01
Economy & Financial Infrastructure	3.46
Social Infrastructure	3.90
Physical Infrastructure & Natural Environment	3.63
Local Governance & Planning	3.30
<b>Combined</b>	<b>3.66</b>

**Neighborhood Satisfaction** measures the extent to which residents' expectations are met or exceeded. It reflects perceptions about respect for people and property, safety and shared beliefs and actions.

Commonality	3.27
Involvement	3.87
Treatment of property	4.24
Respect and trust	3.93
<b>Combined</b>	<b>3.83</b>

**Community Satisfaction**

My community is a very good place for me	4.19
I feel like I belong here	3.89
I am proud of where I live	4.09
<b>Combined</b>	<b>4.06</b>

County Wide -

Item: "I am hopeful about the future of my community":  
80%+ agreement (9.5% disagree)



Indicator	Goshen (n= 132)
<b>Openness</b>	
How good is Elkhart County for immigrants from other countries	3.7
How good is Elkhart County for ethnic/racial minorities?	3.55
How good is Elkhart County for families with children?	4.06
How good is Elkhart County for individuals with disabilities?	3.5
How good is Elkhart County for young adults?	3.63
How good is Elkhart County for people who are gay, lesbian, or transgender?	3.19
How good is Elkhart County for people who have conservative political views?	3.76
How good is Elkhart County for people who have liberal political views?	3.41
	<b>3.6</b>

#### Social Offerings

How would you rate the availability of arts and cultural opportunities, such as museums, galleries, theatres, performances, and music?	3.71
How would you rate the availability of community events, such as festivals, parades, and street fairs in your town?	4.09
How would you rate the availability of nightlife with restaurants, clubs, bars, etc. in your town?	3.12
How would you rate the availability of retail stores and shops in your town?	3.72
How would you rate the availability of coffee shops, diners, ice cream stores, etc. in your town?	4.28
How would you rate the availability of outdoor parks, playgrounds, and trails in your town?	4.44
	<b>3.89</b>

#### Aesthetics

How would you rate the beauty of the landscape in your town?	3.75
How would you rate the upkeep and maintenance of homes and other buildings in your town? AND	
How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement, "The properties near where I live are well maintained."	3.52
How would you rate the design and quality of buildings in your town?	3.64
How would you rate the display of public art in your town?	3.55
How would you rate the upkeep of public spaces in your town?	4.07
How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement, "natural ecosystems are well protected in my town?"	3.61
	<b>3.69</b>

#### OVERALL ATTACHMENT (average of subdimensions)

Openness	3.6
Social Offerings	3.89
Aesthetics	3.69
Attachment	<b>3.73</b>

Sub-Dimension (If Applicable)	Indicator	
Entrepreneurship	There is a strong entrepreneurial spirit in this community.	3.91
	There is help available to start new businesses in this community	3.27
	Both government and private sectors invest in our community	3.61
	There are active economic development efforts in this community.	3.6
	There is money available to start new businesses.	3.14
	Internet Access ([The quality of internet service])	3.82
	<b>3.56</b>	
<b>Education and Professional Development</b>		
	The quality of public schools	3.6
	There are training and skill development opportunities in this community.	3.46
		3.53
<b>Access to health resources and housing</b>		
	You can find reasonably-priced housing in this community.	2.65
	People who live in my city have easy access to fresh food	3.91
	Everyone in the community has access to healthcare	4.08
		3.55
<b>Employment and Financial Stability</b>		
	People in our community have a wide range of livelihood and employment oppo	3.49
	Both government and private sectors invest in our community	3.61
	There are active economic development efforts in our community	3.6
	There is money available to help start new businesses	3.14
		3.46
	Entrepreneurship	3.56
	Education and Professional Development	3.53
	Access to health resources and housing	3.55
	Employment and Financial Stability	3.46
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.525</b>



# Resilience

Sub-Dimension

(If Applicable) Indicator

Entrepreneurship

There is a strong entrepreneurial spirit in this community.	3.91
There is help available to start new businesses in this community	4.28
Both government and private sectors invest in our community	4.42
There are active economic development efforts in this community.	3.34
There is money available to start new businesses.	4.08
Internet Access ([The quality of internet service])	<b>4.01</b>

Education and Professional Development 3.49

The quality of public schools	3.61
There are training and skill development opportunities in this community.	3.6
	3.14
	<b>3.46</b>

Access to health resources and housing

You can find reasonably-priced housing in this community.	2.65
People who live in my city have easy access to fresh food	3.91
Everyone in the community has access to healthcare	4.08

Employment and Financial Stability

People in our community have a wide range of livelihood and employment c	3.49
Both government and private sectors invest in our community	3.61
There are active economic development efforts in our community	3.6
There is money available to help start new businesses	3.14
	3.46

OVERALL OPPORTUNITY (average of subdimensions)

Entrepreneurship	3.56
d Professional Development	<b>3.53</b>
Health resources and housing	3.55
ment and Financial Stability	3.46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.53</b>

Sub-Dimension (if Applicable)	Indicator	
Commonality		
	I have a lot in common with people who live close to me.	3.27
		<b>3.27</b>
Involvement		
	I know what is going on in the area where I live.	3.94
	People who live close to me know each other	3.69
	I know the people who live nearby	4.01
	People who live near me are willing to help each other	4.07
	I am involved in what happens in the area where I live	3.63
		<b>3.87</b>
Treatment of property		
	Properties near me are well maintained.	4.12
	My neighbors respect my property.	4.36
		<b>4.24</b>
Respect and trust		
	My family and I feel safe in our neighborhood	4.39
	Those who live near me treat each other with respect	4.16
	Those who live near me influence my thinking about the community	3.14
	I trust those who live close to me	4.02
		<b>3.93</b>
OVERALL NEIGHBORHOOD SATISFACTION (average of subdimensions)		
	Commonality	3.27
	Involvement	3.87
	Treatment of property	4.24
	Respect and trust	3.93
	Av	<b>3.8275</b>

## Community Satisfaction

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement, "my community is a very good place for me?"	4.19
How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement, "I feel like I belong here?"	3.89
How strongly do you agree or disagree with the statement, "I am proud of where I live?"	4.09

OVERALL COMMUNITY SATISFACTION **4.0566667**



Vibrant Communities Elkhart County 2023 Community Survey

EXHIBIT #4

3/7/24

GOSHEN

132 surveys completed

**Demographics**

How long have you lived in Elkhart County?

Time Lived in E.C.	Frequency	Percentage
0 to 2 years	4	3.0%
3 to 5 years	6	4.5%
6 to 10 years	17	12.9%
11 to 15 years	8	6.1%
16 to 20 years	12	9.1%
More than 20 years	85	64.4%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

What is your gender?

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	30	22.7 %
Female	102	77.3%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Marital status

Relationship Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single (never married)	10	7.6%
Married	96	72.7%
Widowed	7	5.3%
Divorced/Separated	8	6.1%
Live with partner (not married)	7	5.3%
Other	4	3.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Race

Race	Frequency	Percentage
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	0.8%
Asian	5	3.8%
Black or African American	2	1.5%
Hispanic or Latino	14	10.6%
White (Non-Hispanic)	102	77.3%
Other	5	3.8%

Prefer not to answer	3	2.3%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### Family income

Family Income in 2022	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percent
Less than \$10K	3	2.3%	2.4%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	7	5.3%	5.6%
\$20,000 to \$34,999	7	5.3%	5.6%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	16	12.1%	12.8%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	20	15.2%	16.0%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	23	17.4%	18.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	32	24.2%	25.6%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	13	9.8%	10.4%
\$200,000 or more	4	3.0%	3.2%
Did not answer	7	5.4%	5.6%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Education

Education Level	Frequency	Percentage
Less than HS	3	2.3%
HS or GED	23	17.4%
Some College	27	20.5%
Associates Degree	6	4.5%
Bachelor's Degree	44	33.3%
Master's Degree	26	19.7%
Graduate or Professional (PhD, MD)	3	2.3%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>100.0%</b>

#### Born

Generation	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage
Silent (1925-1945)	13	9.8%	10.1%
Baby Boomers (1946-1964)	35	26.5%	27.1%
Generation X (1965-1980)	39	29.5%	30.2%
Millennials (1981-1996)	33	25.0%	25.6%
Generation Z (1997-2012)	9	6.8%	7.0%
Did not answer	3	2.3%	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### Number of Children

Number of children	Frequency	Percentage
None	86	65.2%
One	15	11.4%
Two	22	16.7%
Three	4	3.0%
Four or more	4	3.0%

<b>TOTALS</b>	132	100.0%
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Own home

Home Ownership	Frequency	Percentage
Own	114	86.4%
Rent	17	12.9%
Other	1	0.8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	132	100.0%

Work Hours

Number of Jobs	Frequency	Percentage
35 hours a week or more	59	44.7%
Less than 35 hours a week	27	20.5%
Not currently employed	46	34.8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	132	100.0%

How many of your friends live in Elkhart County?

Friends Live in Elkhart County	Frequency	Percentage
None	1	0.8%
A few	14	10.8%
Some	21	16.2%
About half	22	16.9%
Most	57	43.8%
All or Nearly All	15	11.5%
<b>TOTALS</b>	130	100.0%

How much of your family lives in Elkhart County?

Family Live in Elkhart County	Frequency	Percentage
None	17	13.1%
A few	35	26.9%
Some	25	19.2%
About half	19	14.6%
Most	24	18.5%
All or Nearly All	10	7.7%
<b>TOTALS</b>	130	100.0%

### **Open-ended Questions**

**What do you like most about Elkhart County?**

**I LIKE THE ELKHART COUNTY FAIR EVERY SUMMER AND THE WEATHER IN ELKHART COUNTY.**



3 hours from many big cities

A relatively generous, helpful, Christian community

Access to bike trails between cities/towns (eager for more!)

Affordability

Affordable housing & job industries

BEAUTIFUL FIELDS OF CORN. WONDERFUL FARMLAND. RISE AND ROLL

BIKE PATHS AND PARKS. GROWING DOWNTOWN. DIVERSITY. COMBINATION OF CITY AND RURAL

Caring people, community resources, network of bike paths,

CLEAN, FRIENDLY

Community events, Jazz Festival, Elkhart Co Symphony, Moranga Tree, Elkhart Hotel, downtown

Goshen, EssenHouse, Art community, Lerner Theater.

County parks and bike trails

COUNTY PARKS, PUMPKIN VINE BIKE PATH

Diverse Population

Diversity

Diversity and caring people committed to social justice actions

DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE AND RELIGIONS. MOST ARE CHRISTIANS. LOVE DIFFERENT CULTURES AND LEARNING DIFFERENT FOODS AND TRADITIONS. THE GARDENS AND FLOWERS AND PARKS ARE FANTASTIC. PEOPLE REALLY PITCH IN WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE.

Diversity of people who live here

Downtowns have passionate residents and business owners who do take ownership of their neighborhood

ECONOMY, SMALLER COMMUNITIES, LESS CRIME THAN BIG CITIES

Entrepreneur spirit

FAIRFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT'S VALUES AND CULTURAL ARTS. I APPRECIATE THE INCLUSION OF AMISH AT MILLERSBURG EM SCHOOL AND PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. I APPRECIATE CHURCHES WHO WORK TOGETHER AND MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN BELIEFS

Friendly good people who strive to make life better in our community. Generosity to not-for-profits.

Getting more diverse all the time

GREAT CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES. HOUSING CAN BE AFFORDABLE. JOBS, JOBS, JOBS. LOW CRIME.

GREAT PLACE TO CALL HOME

HIGH VOLUNTEERISM, 4-H

HOMETOWN FEEL

I enjoy many aspects of Elkhart County and see a lot of areas where improvements could be made as well. I enjoy the time and commitment put into the county greenspaces and parks. These areas are available for everyone to enjoy and utilize and we should continue to invest in the future of our Greenspaces. I enjoy seeing the large tree population and canopy throughout the cities and towns in Elkhart County. Goshen has a very ambitious goal of 45% tree canopy by 2045 and I think that is a fantastic goal. More trees and green spaces provide many benefits to the cities and people who live in those cities; from pollution and stormwater capture, shade value, erosion value, wildlife value - and more.

I LIKE HOW CLOSE WE ARE TO A VARIETY OF THINGS: PARKS, RESTAURANTS, TRAILS, ETC.

I LIKE HOW EVERYONE TRIES TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

I LIKE THE PROXIMITY TO LARGER CITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES THERE. I LIKE THAT SMALL BUSINESSES HERE THRIVE AND HAVE A HIGH SUCCESS RATE.

I LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE AND LIKE IT VERY MUCH

I LOVE THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, THE MENNONITE INFLUENCE OF CARING FOR OTHERS, THE CLOSENESS TO LARGE CITIES FOR TIME AWAY (CAN GET TO O'HARE OR A BEACH WITHIN TWO HOURS) IT'S GENERALLY SAFE, PEOPLE ARE CONNECTED

IT FOR THE MOST PART IS A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE AND RAISE A FAMILY.

IT HAS THE MOST THINGS THAT I NEED AT MY AGE OF 96.

IT IS ETHNICALLY DIVERSE

IT IS PROGRESSIVE AND HAS A VARIOUS MIX OF MANY PEOPLE LIVING IN A COMMON AREA. WE HAVE GREAT MEDICAL SERVICE FOR THE ENTIRE AREA - THIS GREAT BENEFIT FOR BOTH YOUNG AND OLD RESIDENTS.

It's my heritage and in my DNA

I'VE LIVED HERE MOST OF MY LIFE. IT HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME AND MY FAMILY MOST OF THE TIME. EVEN THOUGH GOSHEN HAS BEEN A SUNDOWN TOWN, I'M GLAD THAT THAT'S NO LONGER THE CASE.

LARGE VARIETY OF RESTAURANTS, CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES, CHURCHES

LIBRARY, PARKS, BIKE TRAILS, GOOD RESTAURANTS, CHURCHES

LIVING IN SMALL TOWN.

Most people are kind and have positive values.

museums

MY FAMILY IS HERE

Nappanee

NEIGHBORHOOD IS QUIET, LANDSCAPE IS BEAUTIFUL, RESTAURANTS, GROCERY STORES, HEALTHCARE IS GREAT AND CLOSE BY.

OPEN SPACE

PARKS AND BIKE TRAILS. STRONG SUPPORT FOR AND INVOLVEMENT IN 4-H, WEEL KEPT FARMS

Parks and the balance of different worldviews

People

People are friendly and hardworking. We have some great natural resources (rivers in particular) and parks. Parks are well maintained and used and offer diverse outdoor experiences. It is a good place to raise a family and there are resources available to help families succeed and have a happy life.

Slow pace, access to reasonably priced farm produce

Small town living

Small town living..people somewhat try to help each other

THE "SMALL TOWN FEEL", OUR DIVERSITY, THE RIVER WALK AND FUN NEW RESTAURANTS DOWNTOWN ELKHART. GOSHEN FIRST FRIDAYS, THE ELECTRIC BREW, FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. PEOPLE ARE KIND AND WELCOMING. THAT YOU'RE 20 MINUTES FROM SOMETHING NEW/DIFFERENT. SHIPSEWANA ISN'T FAR, INDY, CHICAGO, LAKE MICHIGAN EASY TO GET TO FOR A DAY TRIP, CLEAN IN MOST PARTS OF THE COUNTY AND I FEEL SAFE. JAZZ FEST, PARKS, ETC.

THE 30-40-50 YEAR-OLDS HAVE OPENED BUSINESSES AND HAVE RENEWED THE TOWN. GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ARE VERY GOOD, GOSHEN COLLEGE PROVIDES MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND LEARNING. THE AREA HAS MORE MINORITIES MOVING TO ELKHART COUNTY AND MORE SPECIFICALLY TO GOSHEN.

THE 4-H FAIR, THERE ARE THINGS TO DO IF YOU LOOK FOR THEM... BIKE PATHS, PARKS, FESTIVALS, ETC.

The bike trails

The caring people and the arts opportunities

THE DIVERSITY

THE DIVERSITY

The diversity

The diversity of people

THE EXCELLENCE OF THE RV INDUSTRY

The food, others who live here

THE OPTIONS DOWNTOWN FOR EATING/EXPERIENCESE

The Public Libraries

The rural feeling

The strong cross-disciplinary arts community (except Premier Arts)

the walking trails

THERE ARE A VARIETY OF THINGS TO DO IF INTERESTED - IT'S RELATIVELY SAFE

THERE IS A LARGE COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO REALLY DO CARE ABOUT MAKING THE COUNTY A BETTER PLACE FOR EVERYONE TO LIVE (WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE)

There's opportunity to better yourself and live a generally peaceful life.

We have some real nice places hidden around and I think there are plenty of good people here

WITH THE RVS THERE IS USUALLY WORK FOR PEOPLE. LITTLE CRIME. PEOPLE ARE FAIRLY FRIENDLY

YEARS AGO WAS A SAFE PLACE TO RAISE A FAMILY (NOT SO MUCH IN CURRENT TIMES)

What do you like most about the city/town (or nearest city/town) you live in?

Affordability

Always looking to improve

Artist scene

Calm neighborhoods, easy access to parks, access to schools

CITY PARKS, DOWNTOWN, PLOTICAL LEANINGS, FOCUS ON IMPROVEMENT, EDUCATIONAL ASPECT (COLLEGE IN TOWN)



## CLOSE TO BIGGER TOWNS

Commitment to parks and caring for the environment

Community events, farmers market, maple city market, local farmers, local department of environmental resiliency, local tree forester/management, Good mayoral leadership, The Brew, The Library, The restaurants, Maple Indian, Day Cap, Los Primos, Fables, Soapy Gnome, Imagination Spot, Ignition, Goshen Theater, First Fridays, River Bend Film Festival.

Current Government

Diversity

Downtown Goshen is nice.

ECONOMY, MOSTLY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT, RELATIVELY SAFE

Entrepreneur spirit, Artistic respect, responsive government

Friendliness

Goshen Brewing Co

GOSHEN DOESN'T HAVE MUCH CRIME. THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER. IT IS A PRETTY CONSERVATIVE TOWN. GREAT FIRE AND POLICE FORCES

Goshen is a small blue dot in a sea of red but turning more purple by the vote.

Goshen is more respectful towards diversity than the rest of the county

GOSHEN IS QUIET YET FULL OF LIFE AND LOVE AND OPPORTUNITIES. WILDLIFE AND THE SENSE OF BELONGING.

GREAT, FAMILY

GROCERY STORES, BANKS, SHOPPING IS RELATIVELY CLOSE. MOST LANDSCAPING IS BEAUTIFUL - FARM FIELDS NEARBY, CRIME IS LOW

Growing diversity, livable cost-to-live, small enough that I know many people, big enough that I can find new people all the time, extensive parks and trails network

HOW THE LEADERS AND COMMUNITY ARE MOSTLY WILLING TO EMBRACE THE HISPANIC NEIGHBORS

I enjoy living in Goshen because there are many different activities and events available to participate in, from First Fridays to the county Fair to other summer activities offered through different organizations. Also having access to many miles of bicycle and walking trails is a huge positive! We also love taking advantage of the public pool in the summer.

Other than the activities, I prefer Goshen because this is a city that is getting work done with the future in mind. A good example is the newly adopted Flood Resilience Plan. That type of investment in the community is what will keep the City of Goshen alive and well going into the future. Continued investment in renewable energy is also something I am seeing more of in my area.

I enjoy the natural spaces (parks and preserves).

I KNOW MY NEIGHBORS AND FEEL I HAVE A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY. I AM THRILLED WITH THE MOM AND POP BUSINESSES AND FEEL OF DOWNTOWN.

I LIKE THE PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

I LOVE GOSHEN. IT IS A SMALL TOWN WHERE YOU CAN KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE AND ENJOY LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES.

I LOVE MY NEIGHBORHOOD IN GOSHEN. I LOVE THE INCREASING DIVERSITY AND THAT WE ARE A LIBERAL BUBBLE IN A CONSERVATIVE STATE. I ACTUALLY WORK AN HOUR AND A HALF AWAY BUT HAVEN'T MOVED BECAUSE I LOVE MY NEIGHBORHOOD SO MUCH.

I REALLY LIKE GOSHEN'S DOWNTOWN. NOWADAYS IT IS VERY STRANGE FOR ANY TOWN TO HAVE SO MANY BUILDINGS OCCUPIED

I THINK THE PEOPLE ARE KIND AND FRIENDLY - THEY ARE COURTEOUS WHEN COMING TO A 4 WAY STOP. THEY RESPECT EACH OTHER. THE ABSENCE OF GOOD SHOPPING. NO LARGE DEPARTMENT STORES.

IT IS A NICE SIZE. WE HAVE A GOOD MAYOR. THERE IS STRONG CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT - TREES, PARKS, RECYCLING

IT IS ACTIVE, HAS VARIED INDUSTRY, GREAT FACILITIES FOR THE RETIRED, MANY PARKS AND NEARBY THINGS TO DO AND ENJOY. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WORK TO SECURE MORE HOUSING AND VARIED INDUSTRY AND MANUFACTURING TO EXPAND GOSHEN

It still has some downtown space that is alive and much of the town is bikeable if you try  
IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH TO TRAVEL TO GET WHAT I NEED AT MY AGE OF 96 AND IF I NEED AID I CAN FIND IT NEARBY.

Its got its own vibe, arts, culture, quality of life  
It's home. Where I live, work, play and volunteer  
IT'S MY HOMETOWN

I'VE LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE AND LIKE IT WELL

Leans more liberal in a conservative area

LIBRARY, BIKE TRAILS

Local stores

Millrace and downtown improvements

MY FAMILY MOVED TO GOSHEN IN 1948. I AM VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN, AND KNOW MANY PEOPLE WHO ALSO GREW UP HERE.

NEIGHBORS ARE GENERALLY FRIENDLY TO EACH OTHER.

No traffic, basic necessities within close distance

Our local leadership, community feeling

Plenty of local businesses to support, people are mostly friendly and helpful.

Quiet neighborhoods

QUIET, FEEL SAFE IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD

RENEWED DOWNTOWN AREA

RESTAURANTS

RURAL LIVING WITH NEARBY NECESSITIES

SAFETY, BICYCLE PATHS, TRAILS, RESTAURANTS, PLAYGROUNDS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN, SPLASH PADS, AND SLEDDING

Same as above and development of downtown businesses

See above

Shopping local

SMALL COMMUNITY, BORN AND RAISED IN GOSHEN, A LOT OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS HERE

SMALL TOWN ATMOSPHERE IN GOSHEN

THAT IT ISN'T BIG. YOU KNOW PEOPLE WHEN YOU GO TO TOWN

The access to nature, the downtown, the other people who live here

The businesses and cultural amenities we have access to are pretty amazing considering our size.

THE CITY/TOWN I LIVE IN HAS/HOSTS SEVERAL EVENTS LIKE CARNIVALS, FOOD STANDS, AND FESTIVALS FOR ANY OCCASION

The downtown

The farmers market

The parks are great and well taken care of. There is pride in my town and a vibrant outlook.

The quality of food and live music is exceptional.

THE SLOWER PACE, THE KIND NEIGHBORS, COUNTRYSIDE IS BEAUTIFUL. PUMPKIN VINE TRAIL!

BONNEYVILLE MILL IS A LOVELY PLACE TO HIKE YEAR ROUND, FESTIVALS AND MUSIC BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

The small businesses

the stores available

THERE ARE SEVERAL SMALL TOWN ACTIVITIES LIKE FARMERS MARKETS, FIRST FRIDAYS, KIDS PROGRAMS, THAT WE PARTICIPATE IN.

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING GOING ON. YOU FEEL SAFE.

Vibrant Downtown Area

VIBRANT DOWNTOWN, THE CITY CARES ABOUT TRYING TO IMPROVE RACIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND HAS A COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### What do you like least about Elkhart County?

Affordable housing access and handling of homelessneses.

all the closed businesses and empty buildings while new ones are being built (mall, Klins, etc.)

ALL THE ROAD CLOSURES AT ONCE - CLOSING ROAD WEEKS OR MORE BEFORE WORK STARTS.

ALTHOUGH WE LOVE GOOD ROADS

Big factories need to be regulated for a cleaner environment & blight.

CERTAIN PARTS OF THIS COUNTY LOOK AND ARE VERY BADLY KEPT



CONCORD MALL AND SURROUNDING AREA IS EMBARRASSING AS PEOPLE GO TO SPORTING EVENTS AT CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL AND THEY COME OFF THE BYPASS TO SEE ABANDONED CLOSED UP BUSINESSES. THE STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING "FUN" SAFE THINGS TO DO. THE TRAINS! BUT THANKFUL FOR THE NEW OVERPASSES. WE SHOULD BE MORE DIVERSE IN JOB OPPORTUNITIES - NOT JUST RV CAPITAL

Conservative, not open minded, stuck in the past

COST HIGH EVERYWHERE

County government held back by public disdain

CRIME AND THE LACK OF SHARING KNOWLEDGE ON THE CRIMES BY MEDIA AND POLICE AND PROSECUTOR. GOOD OLE BOY GOVERNMENT OF FRIENDS HELPING ONLY CERTAIN FRIENDS. WHETHER TO ELECTED POSITION, APPOINTED POSITION, ORGANIZATION, COMMUNITY BOARDS, ETC.

CRIME MOVING IN THE AREA, DETOURS FOR TRAFFIC, STREETS AND ROADS IN NEED OF REPAIR  
CULTURE HAS IS EXTREMELY [WORD: LERDINT???

DIFFICULT FOR SOME TO FIND AFFORDABLE HOUSING. DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE SOME RESIDENTS REGARDING KEEPING PROPERTIES UP TO CODE. RENTALS CAN BE IN NEED OF REPAIR.

Extreme right wing political power

FINICKY ECONOMY RELATED TO RV INDUSTRY. TRASHY PEOPLE/MINDSET RELATED TO RV.

RELIGIOSITY/BIBLE BELT

Generally unreceptive to new or different opinions

GOVERNMENT INEPTNESS. THE "MENNONITE MENTALITY" REGARDING CHANGE, OPPORTUNITY, AND EQUALITY ALTHOUGH I AM NOT A PART OF THE LGBTQ+ OR IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Haha, Goshen college and how they run this town some

Heavy reliance on Recreational Vehicle Manufacturing.

HISPANICS ARE TAKING OVER HOUSING SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES ETC. VERY NARROWED MINDED WITH CHANGE. IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I'VE LIVED SEEN A LOT OF NEGATIVE CHANGE DUE TO LIBERAL GUIDANCE.

I DON'T LIKE THE SMALL MINDEDNESS - ESPECIALLU POLITICS. THE HICK FEELING IS DISAPPOINTING. THE UNEDUCATED REPUBLICANS WHO TRY TO CONTROL SCHOOL BOARD AND DISCRIMINATE. I LIKE THAT THE LEAST.

I DON'T LIKE THE WAY NONWHITE PEOPLE ARE TREATED SOMETIMES.

I FEEL WE ARE A MINORITY HERE NOW AND OFTEN THE SAME RULES DO NOT APPLY TO EACH GROUP OF PEOPLE

I find it hard to find a well paying position that includes benefits. Especially full time that would include health insurance & other needed benefits.

Lack of communication with the populous about resources available and alerts.

Most things now close between 7-9pm. There is no nightlife.

Healthcare costs (or maybe it's the whole system). Elkhart and Goshen health systems accept separate health insurance providers. So if a specialist I needed was in Elkhart but my insurance was aligned with Goshen's needs... then I am paying full out of pocket costs. Can't they just get along.

I HATE THE RV TRAFFIC!! I HATE THAT OUR ACCESSIBILITY TO HIGH-QUALITY, INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE IS SEVERELY LACKING. HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE ALSO LACKING.

Influential people who are determined to keep the lowest classes low so they can control and abuse their workforce.

It doesn't have a draw to outsiders; trying to entice others to move here is really hard.

Lack of diverse restaurant choices

LACK OF TRAIN TRACK OVERPASSES/UNDERPASSES

Litter, unkempt properties

Lots of party politics over community good.

Lunatic fringe MAGA politics

MANY PEOPLE LIVE HERE WITHIN THE COUNTY THAT ARE SIMPLY PUT - RACISTS. THEY REJECT THE DIVERSITY THAT HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST COUPLE DECADES AND MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO LIVE HERE COMFORTABLY.

NEEDS MORE DIVERSE MANUFACTURING OTHER THAN RV INDUSTRY. TOO MANY PEOPLE LOSE JOBS AT THE SAME TIME WHEN THE RV INDUSTRY TAKES A DOWNTURN.

No affordable housing

NO GOOD STEAKHOUSE NEARBY.

NOT ENOUGH SIT DOWN DINNERS WITH FAMILY TO ENJOY

NOT GOOD FAMILY RESTAURANTS CLOSE TO US NEED TO GO TO BIGGER TOWNS. SOMETIMES AS OLDER PEOPLE WE DON'T LIKE TO DRIVE IN BIGGER TOWNS

NOT MANY TOPOGRAPHICAL VARIATIONS SO HIKING AND BIKING FEELS LIMITED

Overhead power lines and lack of landscaping along US 33

Pockets of those who demonstrate bias and prejudice towards those different than themselves

Political disagreement

RESIDENCES AND RENTAL PROPERTIES THAT ARE NOT WELL-KEPT. JUNK CARS AND RVs IN YARDS.

WAIST-HIGH WEEDS IN NEIGHBOR'S YARDS.

RUN DOWN PROPERTIES ESPECIALLY IN ELKHART'S SOUTH MAIN ST. AREAS - HIVEY AND LUSHER UP TO THE TRAIN DEPOT

Some conservative activities, book bans, inequalities, and lots of wealth held by few people.

Some neighborhoods are not well maintained by both, households & government resources; creating huge gaps between neighborhoods. Lastly, low community volunteer participation.

SOME OF THE PEOPLE DON'T TAKE CARE OF THEIR PROPERTIES

SOME OF THE VACANT BUILDINGS NEED TO BE REPAIRED AND COULD BE TURNED INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Sprawl, destruction of natural areas, racism,

SR33 TRAFFIC ON THE EAST SIDE OF GOSHEN

That it's very car-centric, generally hostile to pedestrians, and culturally more interested in being angry about national politics rather than getting involved locally.

The extreme politics

THE FLAT TERRAIN. RUN DOWN VACANT BUILDINGS AND TRAILER PARKS THAT DON'T BECOME ABOLISHED. NO ACCESS TO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

THE GANGS, DRUGS, AND THAT WE NEED MORE RESTAURANTS. LOUD MANUFACTURING PLANTS  
The heavy RV employment

THE POOR QUALITY OF EDUCATION. THE DIVISION BETWEEN GOSHEN AND ELKHART.

The RV Industry is too prevalent

THE SENSE OF DISTANCE BETWEEN ELKHART AND GOSHEN

THE UNSAFE FEELING YOU HAVE DRIVING WITH HORSE AND BUGGIES. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DRIVE BUGGIES. THE ROADS ARE DAMAGED DUE TO HORSESHOES. NOT TO MENTION HORSE CRAP EVERYWHERE. THEY SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO CLEAN CRAP UP ANY TIME THEIR HORSE IS RESPONSIBLE.

The utter failure to protect green spaces

The vocal conservatives

The wasted money on road and art projects that are not taken care of.

THE WINTERS BUT YOU CAN'T CHANGE THAT

There is a serious lack of resources and services available for children with special needs (autism) and their families.

there is no consideration to affordable and safe single person housing

THERE IS VERY LITTLE AFFORDABLE HOUSING EVERYTHING IS HIGH \$

Too many run-down homes and businesses, lack of variety of retail businesses

TRAINS STOPPED ON TRACKS BLOCKING TRAFFIC FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME, POTHOLES THAT CAUSE SLASHED/FLAT TIRES

Very conservative minded politically, which limits what we can do (limited financial resources and held back by fear of too much change)

WE ARE ELDERLY AND DON'T GET AROUND MUCH

We are too heavy into manufacturing/factory work. If you don't want to work there it is very hard to find a job

WE DO NOT HAVE MORE EATING PLACES LIKE OLIVE GARDEN. IT'S HARD TO FIND A RESTAURANT OPEN ON A SUNDAY.

WE HAVE SOME OUTSPOKEN RACIST CITIZENS HERE

We need to invest more in infrastructure and the community using that infrastructure. I understand that industry is a large part of what makes this community tick, but the crumbling roadways and bridges show otherwise. We cannot have a growing community if we do not grow and improve the infrastructure around that community. The roads need a lot of work. Please ensure the community is using the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to invest in our roadways and bridges to keep our community safe.

28. What do you like least about the city/town (or nearest city/town) you live in?

BECOMING TOO LIBERAL



Close minded people that complain and criticize instead of contribute. There are a few, but they're loud

Complete LACK of AFFORDABLE HOUSING including the complete lack of housing for singles plus no movement on that problem for YEARS. Not luxury housing (aka Park 33 & Copperleaf). At this point I would kill for a basic apartment with no amenities if that meant I could afford to pay the rent. We don't need all the bells and whistles, we just want to be able to afford to live.

DOMINANT LIBERAL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP WHICH IS RESULTING IN AN INCREASING NUMBER OF FAMILIES I KNOW TO TRANSFER THEIR CHILDREN TO OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

FAMILY MOVED FROM NAPPANEE TO ELKHART YEARS AGO DUE TO HOUSING, ELKHART HAS NEVER OFFERED THAT HOMETOWN FEELING THAT NAPPANEE DID. INCLUSIVITY RESULTS IN COMMUNITY DIVISION

Gangs

GAS PRICES

HISPANICS TAKING OVER SEEMS LIKE THEY GET ALL THE BENEFITS AND GOVERNMENT HELP WHEN THEY'RE NOT EVEN LEGAL. A LOT OF RV COMPANIES HIRE HISPANICS THAT ARE NOT LEGAL.

HISTORY OF GOSHEN BEING A SUNDOWN TOWN IN PAST. THIS HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED AND WE ARE TRYING TO REPAIR THIS.

How little individuals are listened to, money talks louder.

I DON'T LIKE HOW THE CITY OF ELKHART AUTHORITIES TREAT SOME PEOPLE AND THE CITY SOMETIMES DOESN'T FIX THINGS THAT NEED FIXING. I'VE LIVED IN BOTH GOSHEN AND ELKHART AND IN RURAL AREAS. I DON'T FEEL AS SAFE IN ELKHART.

I LIKE WHERE I LIVE BUT COULD USE MORE HELP GETTING AROUND AS I DON'T DRIVE ANYMORE DUE TO MY AGE

I live in Goshen - there are not many negative things to say about it.

I LOVE THE DIVERSITY IN GOSHEN BUT ONE ETHNIC GROUP IS SUPPORTED MUCH GREATER THAN ANY OTHER. WE DID GET AN INFLUX OF HISPANIC PEOPLE AND ALL OF A SUDDEN THEY WERE AFFORDED MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT OTHERS WERE NOT. PURCHASING A HOME, BUSINESS, HEALTHCARE ARE SOME EXAMPLES.

IT'S VERY FRUSTRATING TO HAVE PEOPLE NOT BE ACCOUNTABLE.

Lack of affordable housing

lack of bike lanes for those who commute to work (there are bike trails for nature riding, but drivers are very inconsiderate of commuters and there is a huge emphasis on driving even in our small town),

lack of transitional housing

lack of late food options

LIBERAL BIAS IN SCHOOLS AND NEWSPAPER.

LIMITED INDOOR POOLS FOR EXERCISE PROGRAMS, ESPECIALLY FOR SENIORS (THE ONLY ONE IS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL WITH LIMITED HOURS)

Love most of Goshen public and government

MORE FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Need more activities for younger people

No Amtrak station and unreliable public transit

Not enough opportunities and investment for minorities in poor community.

Not having multiple routes to decrease traffic, traffic lights not managed properly across town, low participation on community & volunteer service events.

Overhead power lines and lack of landscaping

PEOPLE TEND TO FEEL ENTITLED, LIKE THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND THEM

Poor support for education

Racism is accepted, under a veil of "being tolerant"

Same

Same as the county.

school system

See #27

See above

SOME CHANGE IS ALWAYS REFLECTED ON THE CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. SO VERY LITTLE HELPFUL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION HAPPENS.

Sprawl. Lack of bike/pedestrian infrastructure.

Strip malls, dollar stores

THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT AND CITY RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE TERRIBLE - BUILDERS DON'T WANT TO BUILD OR REMODEL INSIDE GOSHEN CITY LIMITS. IT NEEDS A MAJOR OVERHAUL.

THE CONSERVATIVE (MAGA) NATURE OF MANY RESIDENTS

The few people who display signs of hate in their yards and in public forums.

THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC THROUGH GOSHEN HAS NOT BEEN FIXED. IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE MORE FAMILY DINING.

THE GANGS AND DRUGS

The insularity of leadership. It feels hard to make an impact or be heard.

The lack of diversity in the local economy. We are very vulnerable to swings in the economy.

THE LACK OF SHOPPING FOR FAMILY NEEDS SUCH AS CLOTHING AND SHOES

The low cost of living that drew us here is now on a steep rise. Big factories need to be regulated for a cleaner environment & general blight. More beautification upon entering Goshen is needed.

THE OFFERING OF FREE SPANISH AND ENGLISH CLASSES FOR ADULTS

The pike street lights at 15 and the 33 bypass are terribly timed

The powers that be are often talked about as a tight circle and "clickish"; I've experienced this and will agree that it's all talk about inclusion but when it comes down to it, it's not.

The train, lack of variety of employment options and for arts/cultural events/retail, local public entities all administered by same group

The wasted money on road and art projects that are not taken care of.

THERE ARE NOT A LOT OF PLACES FOR TEENS TO HANG OUT. LIMITED RESTAURANTS, BARS, ETC.

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE INTOLERANT OF OTHERS - WHO FEEL THAT THEIR VIEWS SHOULD BE IMPOSED ON OTHERS BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THERE IS A LACK OF REPRESENTATION IN CITY GOVERNMENT AND OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES.

GOSHEN SCHOOLS HAVE SUFFERED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WITH BAD LEADERSHIP AND ITS QUALITY HAS PLUMMETED AFTER A MASS EXODUS OF STRONG TEACHERS WHO HAVE LEFT FOR OTHER AREA DISTRICTS.

There is a serious lack of resources and services available for children with special needs (autism) and their families.

there is no consideration to affordable and safe single person housing

THIS IS A STATE THING THAT IS HUGELY AFFECTING US: FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HORRIBLE AND SAD. LOCAL SCHOOL PROBLEM: WE CAN'T KEEP THE BEST TEACHERS DUE TO THE HORRIBLE ADMINISTRATION!!

Too many large multi-lane roads going through the heart of the community where there should be lively streets

TOO MANY MIGRANTS BRINGING DRUGS ETC.

TRAFFIC. ROADS HAVE NOT KEPT UP WITH GROWTH.

UNKEPT PROPERTIES, LAWNS NOT MOWED

We have great bike trails all around the city, however in the city limits, bike trails and bike paths are very limited. Possibly incorporating more pedestrian and bike friendly infrastructure to the downtown and city limit areas. I would also like to see more opportunities for clean energy and other sustainability projects in the city.

WE NEED BETTER POLICING ON THE HIGHWAYS. WE HAVE A LOT OF SPEEDERS. WE LIVE IN A TOWN THAT HAS A LOT OF HORSE AND BUGGIES THAT PEOPLE DON'T WATCH FOR.

We need more medical specialists, GP's etc.