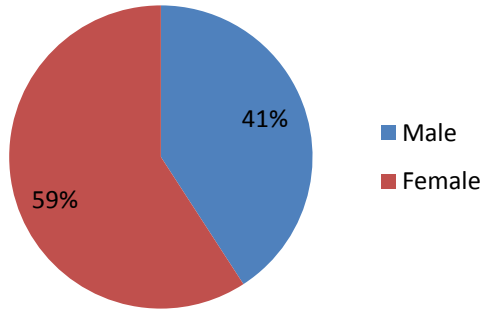


# Gratiot Regional Excellence & Transformation (GREAT) Plan

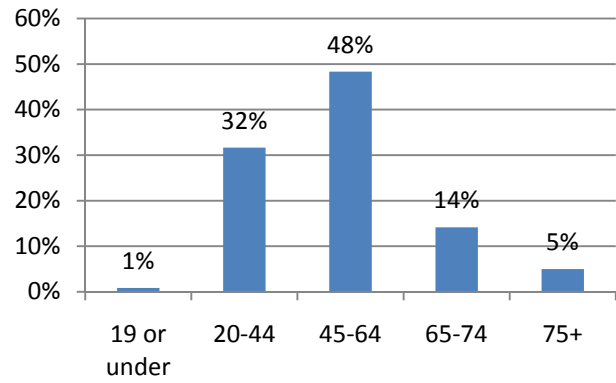
Great things in the palm of your hand

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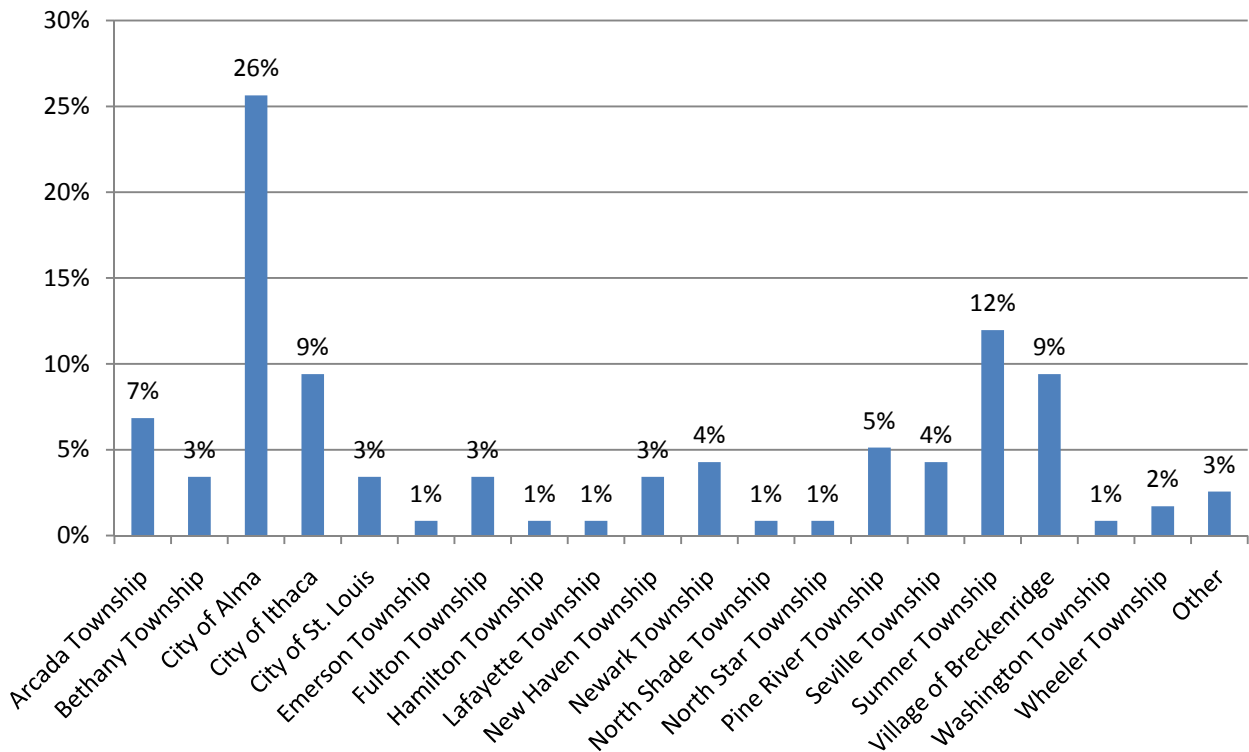
## 1. Are you:



## 2. What is your age category?



## 3. Where do you live?

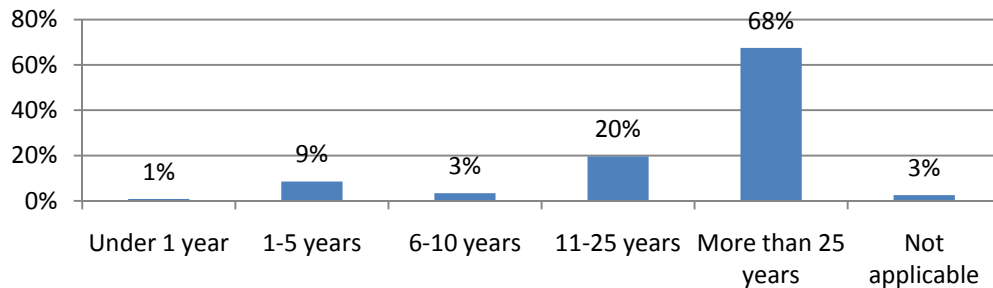


# Gratiot Regional Excellence & Transformation (GREAT) Plan

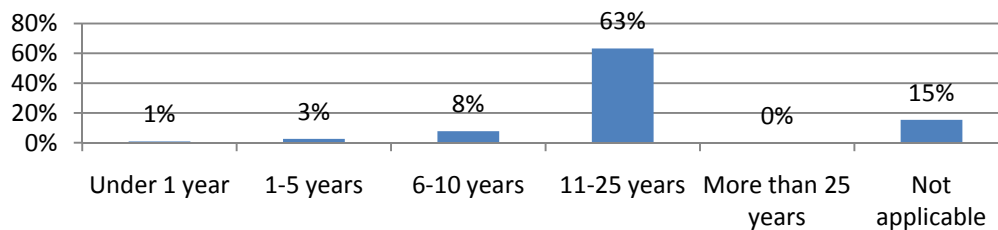
*Great things in the palm of your hand*

*Partnerships for CHANGE Sustainable Communities*  
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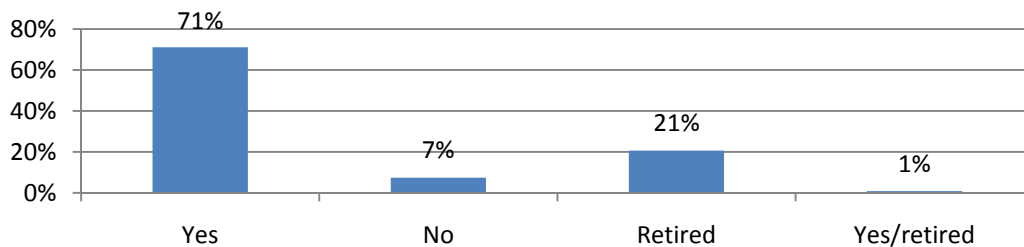
## 4. How long have you lived in Gratiot County?



## 5. How long do you plan to continue living in Gratiot County?



## 6. Do you work in Gratiot County?



### 6.a Where do you work?

*Aircraft Precision Products Inc.  
Alma College  
Alma Container  
Alma Products  
America's Choice Realty  
Anesthesia Associates of Alma  
APPI  
Bovee Farms  
Carson City Hospital  
Chemical Bank  
City of Ithaca  
City of St. Louis  
CMH  
Commercial Bank  
Consumers Energy*

*Courthouse  
from my home  
Fulton Elementary School  
Fulton Twp.  
Government  
Gratiot Community Mental Health  
Gratiot Isabella RESD  
Gratiot Medical Center  
Expressions  
Hospital  
I own Leisure Lake Family Campground  
Isabella Bank  
Isabella Bank- Breckinridge  
Ithaca Mgmt. Co.  
Mike Davis Electric part-time*

*Municipality  
Needham's Home Center  
Non profit organization  
Own business  
Pine River Township  
Pine river Twp.  
Raymond James  
Rosland, Prestage & Company  
self employed  
self employed transcriptionist  
Sumner Township  
United Way of Gratiot County  
Varied locations  
Village of Breckenridge  
Worwick Living Center*

**7. Why did you decide to move to Gratiot County or remain in the community?**

*Gratiot Co. has been good to us and our business.*

*A good job.*

*A wonderful friendly community with lots to offer.*

*Availability of work; close to family and friends; church availability; opportunities to volunteer.*

*Because it is a centrally located area in Michigan that is a safe place to raise a family.*

*Because the job is here and I grew up here.*

*Born and raised here and just feel at home. Lots of friendly people here.*

*Born and raised here.*

*Born and raised, family lives here.*

*Born here, full time employment for 35 years.*

*Born here, work in area, like the collaboration of all of the communities, everyone is family.*

*Born here.*

*Born in Gratiot County, family stayed here.*

*Born in Gratiot County, liked small town living.*

*Bought Aunt's home so she could move*

*Business owner (partner).*

*Children in schools*

*Close-knit community, good place to live.*

*didn't want to move kids school to school-remarried at that time*

*Employment*

*Employment*

*Employment opportunity*

*family*

*Family*

*Family here, good place to raise kids.*

*Family residence.*

*Family, friends*

*Family, friends. Also, it's my home.*

*Family, work, hunting, fishing.*

*Family.*

*Family.*

*Family.*

*Good place to live, businesses in Gratiot Co.*

*Got a job here. All basic amenities are within a short drive. It is centrally located if I happen to get a different job in one of the surrounding metropolitan areas.*

*Gratiot County possesses a wonderful atmosphere to raise families and a wonderful place to visit the more quality things in life.*

*Great neighborhood for families*

*Home boy.*

*Home town boy.*

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*Hometown atmosphere, know lots of people.*

*Husband got a job at one of the prisons*

*Husband is from Gratiot County*

*I enjoy living and enjoyed raising my children in a rural area. Have lived here all my life.*

*I feel at home in this community, I feel hope in this community, and this is where I want to raise my children*

*I grew up in Breckenridge, moved to Maine for a year and I came back to MI because I missed the area and family.*

*I have lived and worked here and married a local guy and are raising 2 kids here*

*I have lived here my entire life.*

*I have not moved to Gratiot County yet.*

*I love it.*

*I love the rural small town atmosphere. It is close enough to home we can get there in a hurry and far enough away to prevent potential problems.*

*I wanted to be near family.*

*I was able to find a good job and affordable housing.*

*I was born and raised in Gratiot County, family and friends live in Gratiot County. It's a great community to raise a family.*

*I was born here and although I have lived in two other states this is my home. My family and friends live here. I also love having four seasons as we do here in Michigan.*

*In 1929 my parents moved to Breckenridge to service. They lived in Saginaw. We moved in with reluctance.*

*Involvement with Alma College*

*It is my home. I know and love the people here.*

*Job*

*Job*

*Job availability*

*job relocation*

*Job relocation*

*like country living*

*Like the area. Good variety of activities and opportunities.*

*Lived here all my life.*

*Looking for house where taxes were fair.*

*married resident of Gratiot County*

*Married, moved from Montcalm County to Gratiot in 1957, remained.*

*moved because of job*

*Moved by company*

*Moved here with my parents and stayed.*

*Moved here with parents and like it here.*

*Moved once, wasn't enough job opportunities available had to move back. Come back because my family is here.*

*Moved to Gratiot County because of job location and plan remaining in the community because I like living here.*

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*My husband was born and raised here.*

*My husband works for Dept. of corrections, so we came here for the job. We also have family here and an excellent church family.*

*My husband's job as a farmer.*

*My job and my family are all here.*

*Need a place to live.*

*Nowhere to go/nothing to do*

*Of related and the close knit community.*

*Originally for a job....and just decided to stay as it was a great place to raise a family.*

*Originally we moved to Gratiot County to be closer to work and family. We stay because of the wonderful people.*

*Quiet area, friends and family near.*

*raised here*

*Ran out of money passing through. Got a job. Got stuck here.*

*Relatives first, now enjoy the area.*

*Size of community, job opportunity, comfortable atmosphere*

*Small town friendly communities. Good reasonable quality of life and living.*

*Small town values, good education system, inviting community.*

*The College*

*The job at Alma College*

*This is home, and I plan to die here.*

*This is my home.*

*This is where I grew up and my family is from.*

*This is where I was born, and my family is here.*

*This is where my family and friends live have their whole lives. This is home. Where ever you go there is someone who knows you and your great grandparents. That to me is a place I never want to leave.*

*There is always someone who will be there in the good and bad times.*

*This is where our family is.*

*To be closer to family.*

*to be near aging parents*

*To open a specialty store - business last 44 years*

*Was born here.*

*We came to work in St. Louis at the Baptist Children's Home and when we left there, we enjoyed the area so much we stayed.*

*We farm and have our business in Alma. As a whole the community has been good to us. We have made a good living in Gratiot Co.*

*We grew up and graduated here. We wanted our children to graduate from high school here. We liked the small community.*

*We were impressed with the downtown area of Alma and the fact that the College is located here.*

*When I was 16, my dad was transferred here as a minister.*

*Where all my family lives*

*Where I was raised and my job was here.*

*Wonderful place to raise a child.*

Work

Work and family.

Work- job.

Work, family, schools.

Work.

**8. What are you most proud of in the community?**

*All in all people are friendly.*

*All of the different events in Alma.*

*Alma*

*Alma College*

*Alma College*

*Alma College, highland festival*

*Alma College.*

*Alma College, Alma Highland Festival*

*Area volunteer agencies.*

*Beautiful countryside, small town atmosphere yet culture offered through college, family values, safe living*

*Bike path, Riverwalk, parks (swings, slides, etc.), recycling program*

*Caring people, nice community support.*

*Charming small cities, communities working together to improve growth, level of education.*

*City of St. Louis.*

*Close knit and friendly.*

*close-knit, caring people*

*Community events.*

*Community leaders working together to make Gratiot County a better place to live and work.*

*Community participation.*

*community responsibility*

*Community support for each other. Good people, people that help people, give back to their community.*

*Cooperation between communities*

*Ethics.*

*Farm community atmosphere.*

*Fire dept. and Police dept., library, local hospital, Masonic Home, Alma College*

*Friendliness*

*friendly neighbors, country living*

*Friendly, close knit, parks, and mostly agriculture.*

*Good neighbors and small town atmosphere.*

*Good schools, low crime.*

*Gratiot Medical Center*

*Highland Festival*

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*Hometown pride*

*How much we have in downtown Ithaca, how we have groups who work together in the county.*

*I am most proud of our municipal leaders who do the best they can with the limited resources available to provide a high quality of life for residents. The fact they are working together across jurisdictional boundaries makes a lot of sense and should continue and be encouraged by citizens.*

*I am most proud of the people in this community. There are amazing people living here.*

*I am proud of the way we value children and community through the expression of summer library programs, the summer youth workshop at the theater, St. Louis Fishing Derby, the Gratiot County Fair for Youth and the Highland Festival Parade that incorporates local groups.*

*I own my own place.*

*I think that the collaborative efforts of the county are commendable. I also think that healthcare in this area is impressive considering the size of the community. Others include family atmosphere, closeness and safety of the community.*

*If there is an issue people work together to solve it.*

*I'm proud of our beautiful and newly expanded public library in Alma as well as the recent hospital patient tower expansion at GMS. I'm also proud of the two newer buildings on the Alma College campus - the Heritage Center and the energy-efficient Wright Hall. These nice newer buildings all add a lot to the vitality of our community.*

*It has provided work for me, for over 30 years.*

*It's closest of friends and family.*

*Lots of people pulling in the same direction in regards to development.*

*Low crime rate.*

*low crime. Friendly and caring people*

*museum, library, sr. citizen center*

*Neighbors helping neighbors. Knowing who your neighbor is and what car he drives. Knowing when a stranger is in the neighborhood and taking responsible action to keep your eyes open.*

*Not letting the towns and cities get run-down.*

*Nothing to be proud of*

*NY.*

*Our Parks and Schools*

*Our schools.*

*Our Twp. (Sumner) Schools, and*

*local parks, Hubscher*

*Parks we have.*

*People working together.*

*People.*

*Progress (like building up the community by bringing new businesses.) Also, I feel protected by the police and fire departments.*

*Recreational activities.*

*Rural charm.*

*Safe atmosphere, clean communities, small schools.*

*Safety*

*Schools.*

Schools.

*sense of community*

*Small and quiet.*

*small town charm - although at times I feel that we try hard to portray that to others to cover up our pollution/environmental problems*

*Small town charm and we know everyone*

*Small town charm, good schools, family.*

*Small town living - safety, pleasant people*

*Small village.*

Sr.

*St. Louis has made some great strides towards beautification and improvements. I wish Alma would step it up as well.*

*The activities that we provide for families that are often free of charge.*

*The agricultural community.*

*The clean, safe, friendly environment.*

*The closeness*

*The closeness of the residents.*

*The collaboration of the governmental units within the County*

*The College, Masonic Pathways, the hospital, shops, parks, safe community.*

*The Community Spirit and Friendly ambience.*

*The family felt environment. Someone always there that you know.*

*The Gratiot Community Players Theater*

*the hometown closeness of people.*

*the involvement as a community*

*The Ithaca public school system.*

*the library and historical society*

*The members of the community work together to achieve their goals*

*The network of resources and support provided by the community and especially our local non-profit organizations (Community Cafe, Mentor PLUS, Big Brothers Big Sisters, United Way, 8Cap, etc...). I don't think that their stories or ideas are heard throughout the community. Especially when it comes to planning and development of the community.*

*The people in this community are amazing...spiritual support, and cultural opportunities, as well as fitness choices.*

*The people living in Gratiot County.*

*The people of the community, how they come together when needed.*

*The people who help each other out.*

*The people, schools, cultural events given small community.*

*The people.*

*the people.*

*The people.*

*The resiliency of the people. How we don't give up even though we have lost a large number of companies in our area.*

*The school system. The rural area.*

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*the schools and the close community.*

*The way everyone pulls together when someone needs help or has an issue. The way everyone works together for things like Summer Daze.*

*The way everyone works together.*

*The way the communities pull together to keep Gratiot County alive, on the map, safe and yet prospering*

*The working people.*

*There are many upstanding, community minded individuals living in Gratiot County.*

*This is a caring community dedicated to helping one another to improve the quality of life for all.*

*Tradition.*

*We feel that there is a great sense of community throughout the county.*

*When in need everybody always helps you out in one way or another.*

## **9. What local places would you recommend that new people to the community visit?**

*All the small town in Gratiot County.*

*Alma College - St. Louis Historical Society - Gratiot County Fair for Youth*

*Alma College Heritage Center, City and County parks (all), Hometown Cellars, Weller Dairy farm*

*Alma College, Gratiot County Players, Alma Symphony, Saravilla B and B St. Louis swimming pool, the river walk and the rail trail*

*Alma College, and surrounding area.*

*Alma College, Gratiot Medical Center*

*Alma College, Highland Festival, the bike trail.*

*Alma College, Libraries, and Parks*

*Alma College, library*

*Alma College, Local schools, hospital, downtown area of area communities, Alma Library, Area golf courses.*

*Alma College, Rainbow Lake, Weller Dairy, Ithaca Industrial Parks, St. Louis downtown*

*Alma College, Library, Masonic Home*

*Alma locations, Pine River scenery.*

*Anschutz-Gena's museum, dairy farm.*

*Any local church. The new hospital. Masonic Home. Mackinac Bridge on 46. MAC grain elevator. The Velsical site and headstones. Rail Trail. The local coffee shop in any community. Alma College.*

*Anything along the river!*

*Anywhere wildlife*

*Bike path, Riverwalks, Wright Ave. Park*

*Braveheart Pub*

*Riverwalk*

*Alma College*

*Cemetery.*

*Churches, parks, local businesses, their neighbors.*

*College*

*College*

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*College, Highland festival*

*College, schools, Masonic Pathways, Riverwalk*

*County parks.*

*Court house and the downtowns.*

*Court house, parks and schools, and Alma College, industrial parks, downtown business, historical sites, airport and friendly people.*

*Downtown*

*Downtown Alma, The Gem in St. Louis, Hometown Cellars in Ithaca, The Middleton Dinner, Reeds Park, and the Riverdale Tavern*

*Downtown Ithaca, courthouse, area parks.*

*Downtown stores.*

*Downtowns, eating places, Saravilla, Alma College*

*Drake memorial house and museum.*

*Francesco's- they have the best cheesecake!*

*Gratiot County historical museum in Ithaca, Alma College, St. Louis historical train depot.*

*Gratiot County parks, downtown communities*

*Gratiot County Players Our Parks*

*Gratiot Medical Center, Alma College, Industrial Parks, Heartland Trail, Breckenridge Historical Society Museum, Quaint downtown shopping areas.*

*Heartland trail, Ithaca, St. Louis, Alma downtown shops, Lima Library, Highland Festival, sledding hill in Ithaca, parks, college events, Gratiot County players.*

*Heritage Center at Alma College*

*Highland Festival*

*HIS Place family enrichment center in Alma and Alma First Church of God.*

*Historical museum.*

*Historical sites like old houses and buildings. Alma parks especially the conservation which is called something else now. The libraries.*

*Historical society.*

*Hospitals, schools, and recreational areas.*

*Hubscher Park, Reed Park, Alma college, The Highland Festival Parade, Sumner Daze Festival,*

*I'd recommend all of our local parks, our newer rails to trails pathway, a canoe livery in St. Louis, MI, and Alma College for the cultural opportunities that are offered there.*

*In Gratiot County? Are you kidding me????*

*IPS- parks.*

*Ithaca, Hometown Cellars, Campgrounds, Alma College*

*Kristophers, JJ ruby's, the hearthstone oven, the College, the railtrail*

*Library, Drake house, and local churches.*

*Library, Masonic Home, hospital, Alma College, Rails to Trails*

*Library.*

*Local Parks, Alma Collage, Rails to trails, local parks.*

*Local downtowns.*

*local parks*

*Local Places*

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*Lumberjack park, Alma College*

*Main Street Pizza, Gena's, Isabella Bank.*

*Masonic Home, Alma College, Hometown Cellars, Hearthstone Restaurant, Ithaca Park, Harrier's Flowers, Downtown Alma, Rainbow Lake.*

*Not sure.*

*Only place you can.*

*Our courthouse and historical attractions.*

*Our libraries for one and Alma College*

*Park out West of Ithaca.*

*Parks.*

*Parks.*

*performing Arts center, parks, downtowns*

*Plank Road museum, school system, library, village offices.*

*Rail Trail, Parks, Stucchi's.*

*Reeds Park, campgrounds, winery, and Christophers.*

*River Rock Bar and Grill.*

*Riverwalk, Alma College, rails to trails, Gratiot County Players performers*

*Save-a-lot, movies and more, church, Reeds Park.*

*School systems, churches, Alma College, area volunteer agencies, Hearthstone bakery  
see above*

*Seville Twp. Library; Elm Hall Post Office; One of our many churches; Gratiot County Court House*

*Small towns.*

*Sr. Ctn.*

*St. Louis Train Depot Hometown Cellars in Ithaca*

*Stores in Ithaca and old downtown Alma- they are old and historic.*

*Take a canoe ride down the Pine River with friends and family. If you haven't your missing out. There has been many laughs going down that river.*

*The Alma College campus, Masonic Pathways, all of the downtown districts, the county parks, the GEM or Strand Theater for performances, Bravehearts Pub, Middleton Diner, Kristopher's Restaurant.*

*The Alma Public Library*

*The Alma, Ithaca and St. Louis Libraries; Woodland Park, Conservation Park; The Middle of the Mitten Park*

*The bars.*

*The friendly restaurants*

*The Gratiot Community Players Theater, the Gratiot County Fair For Youth,  
the library*

*The local fairs and festivals, great way to meet people around the community.*

*The local restaurants JJ Rubys River Rock Middleton Diner We have some nice parks the mini mac bridge is cool*

*The park in Alma, Woody's Music in St Louis, the theater in Alma, River Rock in St Louis, the St Louis dam, St Louis Church of Christ*

*The parks, library, herb garden*

*The parks, schools, and special events in the county. Not much shopping specialty shops to visit.*

*The Rail Trail and Stuchii's.*

*The rural countryside, camping and enjoying the outdoors. Hubscher park, Sumner Daze, the Fair fireworks in Alma. The signing hands performance every spring presented by the GIRESD Deaf / HOH program. It is AWESOME!*

*Things to see and do in Alma. The small friendly town of Ithaca. Both places have lots of history. St Louis does too. Also the new bike trails*

*United Way, Community Cafe, Stucchi's, Pizza Sam's, El Vaquero (sp?), Mancinos, His Place, Alma College Stone Recreation Center, and local parks.*

*Velsicol site; Alma College; Highland Festival*

*Woodland Park in Ithaca, state land East of Ithaca.*

**10. If you could preserve anything in the community, what would it be?**

*4-H.*

*A small-town rural environment with all of the necessary modern amenities.*

*Above*

*All the trees.*

*Alma College*

*Alma College*

*Building on corner of State and Donnie Cemetery, museum, and old markers.*

*community events, festivals*

*country life style*

*County parks.*

*Courthouse*

*Down town.*

*downtown and the college and the rail trail*

*Downtown area.*

*Downtown, College, open spaces*

*Downtowns as core of community - commercial, gathering places, etc.*

*Drake house.*

*Fairgrounds in Ithaca.*

*Farm Land; Small Farms; Elm Hall Post Office; Gratiot County Court House; Live community theatre*

*Farming territory.*

*Gratiot County court house, Ithaca fire house.*

*Heritage.*

*historical buildings*

*historical buildings*

*Historical downtown sites.*

*Historical landmarks.*

*Historical society buildings.*

*Homes to attract people to stay and move in.*

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*house on State and Dawnie*

*I would preserve the desire to gather the communities together for yearly events. I remember as a child attending a celebration in downtown St. Louis. We lived in Breckenridge then and it was a big deal to go.*

*I'd like to see at least part of the Brownfield riverfront in downtown Alma (near the dam) preserved in a natural state, as a park, for everyone to enjoy.*

*Indian cemetery.*

*I've only been a resident here for 1.5 years, so my experience is limited.*

*Jobs*

*jobs*

*Jobs, bringing jobs to our community will keep the community growing.*

*Jobs.*

*Jobs.*

*Keeping it small.*

*Keeping the courthouse in good condition.*

*Libraries, schools, businesses.*

*Library*

*Local business.*

*Lumberjack Park-What a piece of history!*

*Museum, cemetery.*

*Not sure.*

*Old building.*

*Old buildings and the courthouse.*

*Old buildings, Conservation Park*

*Old houses, I hate to see houses rot away.*

*old houses/stores - our history*

*Our family farms.*

*Our libraries.*

*Our never say die" attitude. Whether it's Total*

*Our Parks, Hubscher and Reed*

*Our Parks, We have Hubscher and Reed Park, wonderful parks to take your family, especially now as we are developing the Parks to serve the community in a more safe environment.*

*Our rural atmosphere with our look to bettering the future.*

*Parks*

*Pine River.*

*Pine River. The quiet country roads with their views, watch deer, turkeys, birds pretty yards and woods Proud to be an American who works hard for what they have and appreciates what they have.*

*River*

*Riverfront*

*Schools*

*Sense of community and safety*

*Small town atmosphere.*

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*Small town caring about others.*

*Small town feel*

*Small town hospitality.*

*The Ami Wright House and downtown Ashley*

*The atmosphere of friendliness and support.*

*The closeness of the community.*

*The community's commitment to investing in the future through endowment. Agricultural industry on which this community was based.*

*The country living*

*The County Courthouse.*

*The friendliness of the citizens here.*

*The Gratiot Community Players Theater*

*The great people that make Gratiot County what it is.*

*The hard working people.*

*The historic buildings*

*The historic buildings that are still standing and the St. Louis Bathhouse.*

*the library*

*The non-profits that provide so much to the community. Also the parks.*

*The older buildings downtown.*

*The older buildings.*

*The parks.*

*The point.*

*the rail trail.*

*the rivers*

*The rural areas*

*The small town atmospheres of the 3 major towns in Gratiot County. Alma, St. Louis, and Ithaca.*

*The small town feel.*

*The support for each other.*

*to keep it ag*

*To keep trying to better the schools. More sports opportunities with less cost to the parents. Also to improve on reaching teens to drive. Offer local residents a discount to attend Alma College.*

*War memorial.*

*What little nature is left. Trees, meadows, etc.*

*Youth.*

## **11. If you could develop something in the community, what would it be?**

*A business that would employ many people.*

*A center where children could simply hang out. Nothing for children to do in this community. Lack of culture.*

*A hang out for younger teens to be able to enjoy themselves without wondering around and getting into trouble, some place where they can have fun and have opportunity to learn.*

## Gratiot Regional Excellence & Transformation (GREAT) Plan

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*A place where families can come together for recreation, interaction, and sharing ideas to preserve and protect our communities.*

*A place where people could go and talk, play games, relax, and be open 24 hours a day*

*A Promise Zone guaranteeing college education to local students-thereby attract new residents who value education. Diverse industries offering white and blue collar employment opportunities.*

*Activities.*

*An Arcade or somewhere children can go to.*

*areas around Pine River. And Please lets keep our road sides clean*

*Attempt to get our old depot back into the community- possibly put on museum property.*

*Better transportation for seniors and shut-ins.*

*Businesses related to agriculture, Jr. college.*

*Businesses.*

*Camping at the pits.*

*Change the Ethanol plant into a distillery.*

*community centers with activities for all ages, especially teens and singles*

*Definitely a place for the kids to go for safe, fun entertainment.*

*Dog park*

*Downtown*

*Employment; Parks;*

*Energy Park*

*Energy park and river walk development.*

*Energy windmills.*

*Entertainment activities for young professionals that have not started families yet.*

*Entertainment venue*

*Explaining recycling (Styrofoam). Training for lower income families in making money stretch, job training, mentoring*

*extending the railtrail south to connect Ithaca and Alma.*

*Fitness center for ages 4-100. Similar to Morey center in Mt. Pleasant.*

*Free fun night for low income children.*

*Hemp products inc...*

*Honesty*

*I would develop an outreach/learning center for students and individuals socio-economically excluded from common extra curricular and enriching programs. With the 2000 census indicating that 13% of Gratiot County lives in poverty, I would love to see a center focusing on lifeskills training and sustainable living in limited situations.*

*I would like more places to eat in the Breckenridge area.*

*If I could develop something in the community it would be a community rec. center that would offer a daycare, low cost activities for kids, community enrichment programs for adults. I think we have these activities in the community already, but they are far apart and too costly. The other very import thing is a county wide transportation system*

*Industries for employment*

*Industry.*

*Jobs and more recreational opportunities.*

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*Jobs.*

*Larger Business; factory, retail, etc.*

*leadership group , community forum for discussion and study of various issues*

*less polluted land!*

*Local business*

*Make 127 a limited access freeway from S. Ithaca to St. Johns.*

*Make it more for people to enjoy.*

*Make the park in Sumner more handicap accessible. High speed internet access in all areas of the community instead of having little pockets with it available and big pockets with nothing available.*

*Improve the 911 system. A good friend of mine died because although the person driving her to the hospital called 911 last Oct. The call was not routed correctly (Talk to Mark Duflo) and no help was given to the driver. People need to be aware that if they call 911 on a cell phone they need to ask for the county they are in and NOT depend on the system to work correctly. If the call had been routed correctly and a police escort or ambulance had been sent to meet them, this person may have lived. It was very tragic and may have been prevented - this system needs fixed so that it does not happen again. Make 911 equally accessible to those of us who live on the outer edges of the county. Waiting 30+ minutes for an ambulance is unacceptable and forces us to choose to drive our loved ones in (risking lives on the road) to the hospital in order to insure that they have a fighting chance.*

*Medical care industry. Bring in more hospital support.*

*More activities for the young people.*

*More activities for young people. More jobs for recent high school and college graduates to keep them in the area.*

*More better working class housing not more rental units.*

*More close shopping opportunities*

*More collaboration between all governmental entities and the population in general where the public would be a more integrated part of the actions taking place.*

*more community recreation opportunities*

*More employment opportunities. Better college/community relations. Can do attitude.*

*More industry.*

*More jobs in manufacturing.*

*More jobs that would stay here not move to another country.*

*More jobs.*

*More jobs.*

*More local businesses.*

*More opportunity along m-57 corridor.*

*More programs for children.*

*more programs for kids, variety of restaurants and stores*

*More recreation areas.*

*More recreation.*

*More recreational activities*

*more recreational activities*

*More recreational activity areas.*

*More teen places to go: skate board parks, campgrounds, museums, aquarium would be great for kids*

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*and adults, dog park, bring the drive-in back, also a drive-in A&W.*

*More things for the youth.*

*More unique businesses to attract visitors*

*My first choice would be the Brownfield riverfront in Alma. I'd develop part of it as a park. This could be a real asset for downtown Alma, and draw people into the area.*

*The rest of it could be developed with some \*much-needed\**

*restaurants, additional shopping, and possibly some type of a residential development (perhaps upscale condos). I'd really like to see some type of a mixed-use type of development there.*

*My second choice for development would be the long-awaited Great Lakes Energy Park, even though I'm beginning to lose hope that it will ever actually come to*

*fruition here. First, I would definitely want to make sure that the capture of CO2 gasses underground is actually feasible - for the long term. I have some doubts about this aspect of it. I'd want to talk to*

*many experts in this field before I'd be willing to sell out" this area*

*nicer places to eat downtown*

*Our own energy source.*

*Park.*

*Pine River, clean out the log jams and junk.*

*Pool Hall.*

*Property at State St. and Mechanic St.*

*Public Transportation, Recreation Center, Recycling Center*

*Raise education levels of all students*

*Rec center soccer fields walking park*

*Rec. center for all ages.*

*Riverfront*

*Riverfront Art Walk*

*Riverfront in Alma, more successful businesses in Riverdale, Sumner*

*Safe drinking water in St. Louis*

*Slow pitch softball night games.*

*Small industry, good restaurant.*

*Something for the kids to do -skate park, pool/gaming area-teens have nothing to do in this area other than hang out in the parks and get into trouble-they need stuff that is interesting to them*

*Sports shop.*

*that there be more funding for libraries in the county.*

*The City of Alma needs to develop more and get a stronger theme" for the city. They need a stronger sense of community."*

*The library.*

*The western side of the county, particularly Seville Township.*

*There is a shortage of healthy restaurants, but most of all, a shortage of work opportunities.*

*To have a true and lasting passion for Jesus Christ . To be like him, loving, serving, and encouraging each other.*

*United Way needs a lot of support with their new building. I would suggest helping them develop that into the non-profit center of their dreams (and for that matter the dreams of the community members those agencies serve).*

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Velsicol

*We need to be able to better encourage and accommodate budding entrepreneurs with a dedicated facility and mentoring staff. We need to build upon our strong agricultural base with innovative spin-off business opportunities, possibly becoming an agricultural research center of the midwest.*

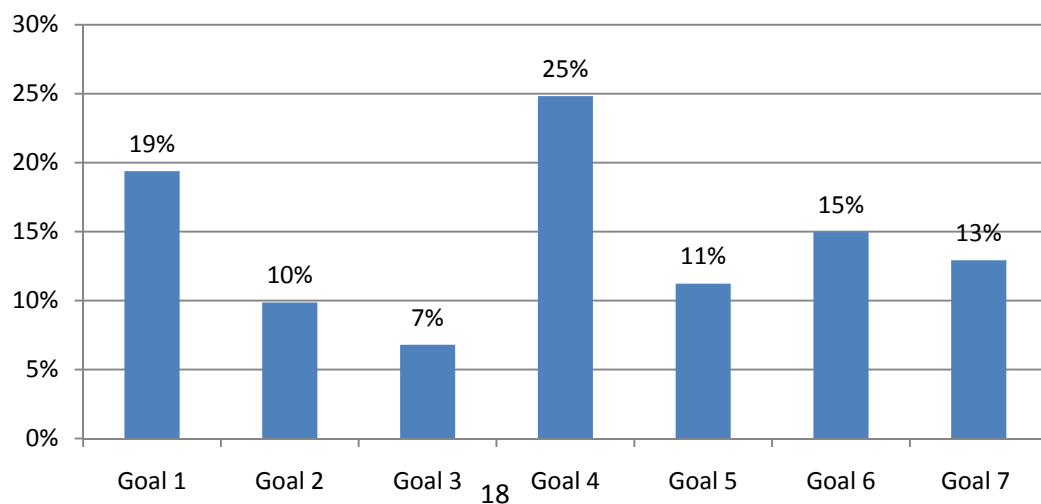
*Wind power, organic products with outlet.*

*Year round recreational center not associated with Alma College*

*Youth activity.*

**12. At the December Public Meetings, the Gratiot County Master Plan Steering Committee requested feedback on the following set of master plan goals. Please mark the three (3) goals that you think are the most important to the Gratiot Community.**

- 1. Preserve the County's quality rural character, which includes productive farms, healthy natural features, and vibrant downtowns that maintain "small town" charm.**
- 2. Strengthen the existing cities, villages, and hamlets to serve as quality community centers for living, working, and recreating.**
- 3. Provide quality public services, such as water, sewer, public safety, and the transportation network, in the most cost effective manner.**
- 4. Provide and sustain economic opportunities by retaining, attracting and growing quality employers, including those within the agriculture, industrial, and commercial sectors.**
- 5. Provide high quality of life opportunities, such as premier cultural and recreational resources, for the enjoyment of people from all generations.**
- 6. Provide quality educational opportunities that prepare residents for local jobs and cutting edge industries.**
- 7. Continue and strengthen quality community collaboration to promote sustainable planning practices and elevate Gratiot County as a whole.**



**13. Is there another goal that you would add?**

*A project that could clean up the road sides, such as the deer that have been killed by car accidents  
A resource to clean our road sides of debris. Such as the deer left from the winter, and trash  
or GTE that's leaving town taking jobs with them*

*1. More programs, transportation, housing, opportunities and services for those with special needs and abilities. 2. Affordable wireless or high speed internet that is available ALL over the county. Although there is a tower in Sumner - it does not work, even when you can see it out your window. Too many places w/o phone lines that are capable, no cable access and no wireless access. Satellite is too expensive and does not work for those who would like to continue their educational opportunities on-line (Too long of a latency period). Companies who want to dig to replace existing services should be told they must upgrade when applying for zoning permits, etc. 3. Improve the 911 system and educate the public to ask for the county they are in when they call 911. See the question above.*

*Make the 911 system just as accessible for those on the perimeter of the county as it is for those in towns. Those who chose to live in the rural areas pay the same taxes and should have equal access - not ambulances that take 31 minutes to respond when called as it has for several people in the area when they called. It is actually faster and safer for our family members if we take them in to the hospital - even though it requires us to speed. Waiting for the ambulance can and does cost lives for those of us on the outer edges of the county.*

*A county wide school system? Would it make better use of teachers? 1 school board for the entire county as in other states.*

*Broader economic development outside of the county's current east M-46 and Ithaca" orientation."  
Clean up the mobile home park.*

*Develop riverfront*

*Eliminate the smell on US 127 north of Alma*

*Finish 127 south of Ithaca to St. Johns.*

*Focus on and improve educational and cultural opportunities for our next generation and encourage our children, grand children, and great grand children in growth and development.*

*Get rid of the corruption at the courthouse and the sheriff.*

*I think we should focus on something other than sports.*

*I would like to see the county work together to form a resource for those increasing numbers of individuals that need temporary help. A homeless shelter, perhaps. The greatest county is only as strong as its weakest members.*

*If Gratiot County could go green, that would provide quality of life.*

*If you bring some of my ideas to the county it will put more money into other ideas and progress into the community*

*Jr. college.*

*Keep our law enforcements strong.*

*More recognition from state government!*

*See question 11. More of it.*

*Small business incentives.*

*Staying the course in finding avenues to clean up all pollution and finally being able to put this issue to rest...if that is a possibility.*

*Strengthen local non-profits to help provide services and aid to community members and show*

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everyone around the country what amazing things our non-profits are doing in this economy.  
 That employees in the area do everything possible to stay in the area and retain the employees that they have and provide for them and their families.  
 Utilize community service for there that owe the community for incarceration for penalties/fines.  
 We need to have a share of parks money raised through millage here in Breck.

**14. At the December public meetings, participants identified a number of community issues and opportunities. The following list reflects common participant responses (presented in no particular order). Please indicate your level of agreement with each statement by ranking it on a scale of one (1) to five (5), with five (5) representing strongly agree.**

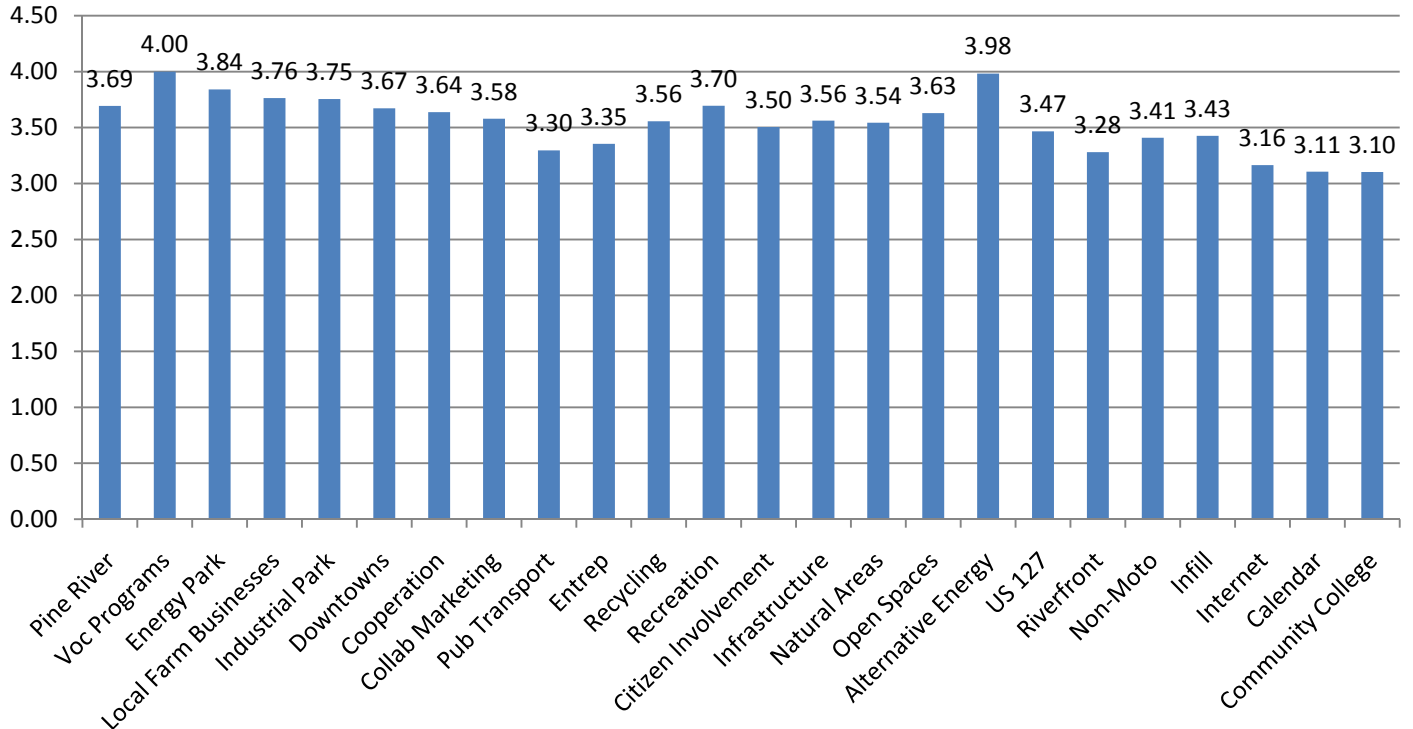
<u><i>The Gratiot County Community would benefit from.....</i></u>	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Cleaning and protecting the Pine River.....	1	2	3	4	5
Making vocational programs available to students.....	1	2	3	4	5
Developing an energy park.....	1	2	3	4	5
Businesses that sell locally produced farm products.....	1	2	3	4	5
Expanding industrial parks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Maintaining and improving downtowns.....	1	2	3	4	5
More local government, school and agency cooperation....	1	2	3	4	5
Collaborative marketing efforts.....	1	2	3	4	5
More public transportation options.....	1	2	3	4	5
Entrepreneurship/business mentoring programs.....	1	2	3	4	5
A county-wide recycling program.....	1	2	3	4	5
More county-wide recreational opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
More citizen involvement in local government decisions....	1	2	3	4	5
Improved and well-maintained infrastructure.....	1	2	3	4	5
Preserving natural areas (e.g. woodlands & wetlands).....	1	2	3	4	5
Preserving open spaces (e.g. farmlands & fields).....	1	2	3	4	5
Utilizing alternative energy sources.....	1	2	3	4	5
Completing US-127.....	1	2	3	4	5
Developing riverfronts.....	1	2	3	4	5
Developing non-motorized pathways.....	1	2	3	4	5
Redeveloping empty lots and contaminated sites.....	1	2	3	4	5
Expanded internet service.....	1	2	3	4	5
An improved community calendar.....	1	2	3	4	5
A Gratiot County community college.....	1	2	3	4	5

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## Question 14 – Average Score



### 15. Please provide any further comments on the backside of this page.

*It may seem from my point of view that I may be asking for the moon, but this programming is sooooo important to our youth, to make a better community for all.*

*It may sound like I am asking for the moon, but we must think about our youth for future development (Summarized): Community college at least 30 miles away, and nonresidents pay greater tuition.*

*Difficult for working older adults to get degree due to time constraint. Would like a community college in Gratiot Co. Would like to further her nursing education, have better access to community college, and be able to give to the community.*

*A Gratiot Community College would be a marvelous thing. Think of the opportunity to grant scholarships to those most in need of them. To educate and send into the workforce our own!*

*CAFO operations need to find another home.*

*Figure out a way to keep our children from leaving Gratiot County after high school and never coming back.*

*For riverfront development, Alma should consider looking at the Riverwalk in Downtown Gladwin. It includes thriving shops and a bar/restaurant on the first level. Banquet Center for parties, weddings, etc and condos on additional levels. Beautiful building that has greatly enhanced that small community.*

*Gratiot Community College? Great idea!*

*Having 1 county fair. Making it for the kids again, not money. Ithaca has the ideal location to grow*

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*with their fair. Some members of the G.C.F. for Youth have forgotten who and how and why their fair was started. The kids without the financial support are being pushed aside. This must stop. And no, my children never had animals at the fair. This is just my opinion. Thank you.*

*I LOVE the idea of a community college in our area!!!!*

*I think it would be sinful to develop on a spot that still has contamination issues. Why take the chance of causing future health issues.*

*I would like the community (especially Alma) to be more ethical, have more morals, respect and values for themselves, the children, the elderly and the community. Maybe bringing back some of the "old ways" will make this a better community and a better place to live. Provide opportunities for the community to volunteer like: keeping the towns clean (pick up trash, etc), planting of trees, start walking groups, bicycling groups, bird watching, whatever, free parenting classes to keep children safe, low cost CPR classes or free, get a YMCA started up, any activity to keep kids and adults active and out of trouble. Have city meetings at morning and night for all people to be able to come. Have more job fairs at Michigan Works. Get the businesses involved to make that an option. Make it easier for someone to start a new small business. Offer small businesses that are already here some advice or tips to keep their business here. Start neighborhood watches. Super Wal-Mart to begin.*

*The city should put more effort and emphasis on economic development. We must provide jobs for our citizens and community growth. Great parks and culture events won't prosper without people with jobs. We continually lose young people because lack of jobs. A strong local economy would solve many problems.*

*Use local high school or college to search the internet for businesses and industries that would be compatible and/or interested in moving to our area. This might be use of co-op students supervised by adults.*

*We desperately need to upgrade the services to those with special needs and improve high speed internet access to all of our residents.*

*Would benefit the community to have a dog park. A place where animal lovers could socialize while their dogs mingle and get exercise. People would be expected to clean up after their dogs.*