

Here are the results of the Chesterville Survey conducted Spring 2024. There were 17 responses received out of 68 surveys sent (25%).

I tried to duplicate everyone's answers without modification. If answers were identical (e.g. "yes" or "no") I put the total number of those comments in parenthesis after the answer.

## CHESTERVILLE RESIDENT SURVEY SPRING 2024

The Chesterville Planning Commission is reaching out to Chesterville residents for their input due to increasing development pressures in Morrow County. Community feedback assists in guiding new and existing legislation/zoning to help it meet the needs and desires of the community. Through this feedback we can identify issues, problems and expectations of Chesterville residents. Specifically, this survey is intended to help control and guide future development. From this survey of the community, we can have a plan for growth and development that conveys the desires of the residents as to what the future character of Chesterville looks like.

### 1. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE IN CHESTERVILLE?

- Bought my Mom's house in 1988
- Was a cute quiet town – now not so much
- We lived here almost 42 years. Always lived in and around growing up
- It was ½ way between our kids
- Found a home in a rural community, close to work.
- Affordability! Small quiet town. Hopefully lower taxes than living closer to conveniences, less government intrusion, hopefully a safe and healthy atmosphere to raise my family.
- Affordable home
- Grew up in Morrow County, like the community
- I liked the house and the elementary school was within walking distance (34 years ago)
- Price was right. Distance to Polaris/C'bus is right. Morrow County taxes
- The house we bought & love it here.
- My parents lived here & ended up buying home
- Purchased a house here that was perfect for me
- To raise our children, plus Highland Schools.
- Location of our home purchased from family (close to family)
- I loved the older architecture, the town was convenient to reach being near the highway, but also had a lower cost of living than Columbus.

### 2. WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN CHESTERVILLE?

- Central location to Columbus, Mansfield, Marion, Mt. Vernon
- Close to 71
- Small town feel
- It's quiet (2)
- Country living, rural community
- My neighbors are great! Chesterville like any other place to live in, isn't about nice houses, sidewalks, corner café, etc...although that would add to the ambiance. It's the kindness of the people that surround you.

- Friendliness of most residents. Appreciate the two businesses and library. I think the Mayor and Council are doing a fantastic job
- Used to be fairly quiet. Now we listen to semi-truck engine brakes as they ignore the speed limit. We stay because we have our house & property the way we want it.
- Price. Friendly neighbors.
- My godly neighbors.
- That it's small
- Small friendly, not a lot of traffic on my street, relatively quiet with the exception of the traffic on 95 & 314.
- Small town community
- Small town atmosphere (How close to 71) (Library is awesome)
- It's mostly quiet. I enjoy the lower levels of crime, the friendliness of most area residents, and having access to Amish goods and workers.

### 3. WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN CHESTERVILLE?

- Traffic/noise
- Traffic! Need sidewalk repairs (not by residents or buis.), need a curb
- The Traffic! Getting out of our driveway is almost impossible.
- Vacant dilapidated buildings & blight properties
- Mayor, Village Council paying RITA Tax and nothing done to improve community – roads, sidewalks, drainage etc.
- Zoning. I understand the need to a degree. But to pay for permission to improve my property is wrong! It's legalize theft! After any improvement, the Village will get a portion of my tax increase. That's a residual increase in the Village budget. Why take even more of "my" money for permission? Plus the fact that it penalizes the person who wants to improve his home which also improves the Village as a whole.
- Houses and yards look run down and not taken care of
- Traffic, attitudes of a few residents
- Abandoned buildings. Village road upkeep is terrible. Storm sewer doesn't work. People parking along St.Rts across sidewalks blocking vision.
- The Post Office
- Nothing really.
- Taxes for what! No service to haul leaves or limbs away – (can't burn). Paying for a lawyer. You could use that money to pay for the trash pickup & once a year or twice a year limb & leaf pick up. The law doesn't require to retain a lawyer it does require you to contact a lawyer to do any legal work – not to be at every meeting. – The village office should be tore down.
- From a financial point of view the village would be better off consolidating with Chester town ship. They could do what you all do & it wouldn't cost as much.
- Long trip to grocery store (Mt. Gilead)
- The drug houses
- (Drug issue)
- The traffic can be as bad as living in Columbus, and many times is noisier than Columbus. Also the speed which these vehicles go through town. I'm surprised there aren't more injuries or accidents than there are. The lack of businesses is another issue, with all the empty storefronts. In that respect, Chesterville should be doing a LOT better than it is.

#### 4. WOULD YOU PREFER TO KEEP CHESTERVILLE MOSTLY RESIDENTIAL?

- Yes, mostly
- Yes & no – needs more businesses
- Yes (9)
- Yes, mainly
- I would. However if someone buys property in town, it would be their right to use that property as they want. I would hope that the person would be respectful of the small town atmosphere and establish something suitable!
- We need an active business district
- No
- Yes, but with the types of businesses that add charm and convenience for residents.
- I would prefer a more mixed use approach, especially in the village. Smaller shops and houses, with an approach towards keeping traffic from getting any worse than it already is (think warehouses).

#### 5. WOULD YOU LIKE CHESTERVILLE TO HAVE A MIX OF HOUSING TYPES (APTS, CONDOS)?

- Not in town, outskirts would be OK
- Not enough acreage to add more
- No, prefer mostly single –family homes (3)
- That’s a loaded question. Again it’s the owners right to build what he wants on his property. I would prefer all single family, well-kept homes.
- No (3)
- More of either would be nice.
- If they are new build, up to code and road access is well planned as to not disrupt traffic. We need a park too. Green space
- Apts & condos are a great idea
- Not necessarily, more traffic
- It would be on the west side towards the freeway
- (Yes, near 71 not Chesterville)
- Sure
- As above, mixed use, but maybe with a focus on homes with a minimum acreage.

#### 6. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE BUSINESSES IN CHESTERVILLE? IF YES, WHAT TYPES OF BUSINESSES?

- Yes, restaurant but unlikely with freeway nearby
- Yes – retail and food
- Not really
- Yes, small businesses and restaurants
- No (3)
- I would like to see the businesses that are already here flourish. There are three right on main street
- What type? A coffee house would be nice. But is there enough customers to keep it running?
- Yes, stores to shop in and food options by the freeway
- A small breakfast restaurant – especially breakfast
- A pizza shop

- Any small business
- Yes, tear down or remodel empty buildings. Insurance company, lawyer's office, pizza place, antique store if it was open! Coffee shop that sells breakfast (bacon, eggs, sausage gravy etc.)
- Maybe. Not sure type though.
- Pizza/restaurant, walk in clinic/drug store, hardware store – bank
- Utilize the sites we have that are vacant or not in use form better uses
- Yes – pizza shop, restaurant, (service business)
- (Yes, restaurant pizza place)
- Yes – restaurants, antique shops, offices (insurance, financial, others) anything that adds convenience and joy and occupies the empty store fronts.
- I would LOVE to see all of those empty buildings in town populated with businesses for starters.

#### 7. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE DONE ABOUT THE VACANT, DILAPIDATED AND BLIGHTED PROPERTIES IN CHESTERVILLE?

- Sold to people interested in restoration
- Fixed or removed
- Some of the properties are eye-sores. Would love to see them cleaned up or razed if that is a better option.
- Council should make an ordinance of what constitutes dilapidated and blight properties and invoke fines
- Village Council & Mayor to do something about it. Stop doing friends and family members favors
- I would like the owners to repair or remove them
- Plowed/bulldozed down to make a fresh start
- Have them repaired or removed. Finding some way to get Commissioners and Health Department to assist. No help from either after many attempts.
- Tear down and bring in a builder with fresh ideas.
- Blow them up. I don't care.
- Grants?
- Take them over – sell them
- With homeowners' approval, add sellable items to the yard sale. Dump runs, clean up, yard maintenance maintained, collective effort to make this happen.
- Would like to see them being utilized. If in bad shape torn down.
- Either fixed up or torn down (didn't know it was an issue. What are the options when someone owns them)
- To me, the older architecture, especially the mid-1800 Greek revival buildings in the center of the village, are what makes the town unique. It was the first thing I noticed when I came here to look at my house. And I've had numerous friends tell me the same thing, how cool these old structures are. It's a huge strength, and anything that promotes reuse and repair will make the village that much stronger. I would love to see a grant writer bring in state money for the government buildings, and I would love zoning to protect the buildings we still have. DO NOT TEAR DOWN.

#### 8. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE CHESTERVILLE TO LOOK LIKE IN THE FUTURE?

- Clean and preserved. I doubt the size of the town will change
- Street posts for flowers/flags
- Pretty much as it is now...like it's always been
- Quaint small town where people take pride in their property with small businesses in the heart of town

- A rural community with finished sidewalks that are maintained
- A mayor and Council who care about community members, not just their own wants & needs
- I would like to see its residents care for one another first. And if they can afford to, maintain their homes, that will be great!
- I would like, if funds were not an issue, to have safe sidewalks where they now exist. Old trees removed and new ones planted that are carefully selected so as not to damage sidewalks or grow into the power lines.
- “clean” – mostly people
- A small village with no blight and well maintained houses.
- Utica and Fredricktown are good examples. Small businesses, restaurants, parks, nice residential area
- Modern small town. Less drugs. More vibrant future.
- Just like it is today
- A small village office – park for kids and families to gather, sidewalks you can walk on, road you can drive on
- Somewhere that others from out of the area will want to come here. Restaurant? Ice cream shop?
- East side residential & businesses that are supported by locals.
- A cute little village where you would like to stop when traveling through. (I don’t think is bad now)
- Historic buildings repaired, painted, and populated with businesses. A coffee shop, a family oriented tavern with food, a pizza shop, maybe a chocolatier like Goumas in Newark and Granville, Ohio. Things to get people to visit, and then stay for a meal. A park would be nice for kids to play in, and it sure would be nice to have a farmers market on weekends. Granville comes to mind, as does Lexington.

9. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHESTERVILLE GROW IN SIZE? IF YES, HOW MUCH?

- Expand to the west and increase the 35 MPH zone to slow traffic. Maybe this could be done in partnership with Chester Twp.
- No only new business
- No (4)
- Yes, not sure how much though
- I think that there is only so much land available for growth. I would not want to extend its boundaries. Especially if what we have now cannot be maintained properly.
- Limited to common sense growth. Can’t grow too much, Village is land locked
- Yes, but with well-defined zones: single family, multi family, business, municipal, etc. Double the size. Roads would have to be upgraded to make this possible
- 15% - 20% bigger maybe.
- Around 200
- ?
- What we would like new growth.
- Yes – I would have to say at least 25 families with children (yes – more toward 71)
- Some growth would be nice, insofar as it would help improve what the town already has. IF YES, HOW MUCH?  
No more than moderately.

10. DO YOU SEE THE TRAFFIC ON 95 OR 314 AS A PROBLEM?

- Yes, truck noise, Jake brake every day. Enforce noise ordinance.
- Yes (2)
- Absolutely. We feel 95 is worse than 314
- Yes and not having sidewalks on those busy highways is a big problem
- No, not at this time. It will become a problem if more businesses & Chesterville grows in size.

- Yes. A passing lane on the corner of 95 by Antique Rose would be helpful. When one car waits to make a left onto 314 N, traffic does backup at quitting time. Also the same on 314 in front of Patrick Bracken property. If possible, the Village would do well to ask ODOT to provide turn lanes at Chesterville intersection.
- 95 is a problem
- Yes – too much speeding. Can't do much without a police department
- 95 needs a turn lane at the light
- Sometimes it can be. The idiots blasting it down 314 need to stop.
- No
- No, because these roads are now thoroughfares for commerce of every kind.
- Not really. But need a more attractive place for cars to want to stop at.
- No (no)
- The noise is hard for us, but it has been that way. If people driving would watch for pedestrians, the stop light would be safer.
- ? YES!!!!!! The trucks are out of control, and traffic in general screams through town uncontrolled except for the traffic light, and I've seen that get ignored by drivers not wanting to stop.

11. BESIDES HERITAGE DAYS, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHESTERVILLE HAVE AN ANNUAL RESIDENT PICNIC GET TOGETHER OR SIMILAR EVENT?

- Maybe a park or community area at the school grounds
- Flea market day in July – anyone is welcome to rent space
- No, it seems that no one is interested in socializing.
- Yes, that would be nice – include name tags
- Activities that build a community – How would you make a picnic or get together that everyone would participate in – most do not come to Heritage Days?
- Undecided on that one. I'm more of a one on one person than large groups.
- Something like people donating the food and not require others to bring something. They would just pick up and go.
- It would be nice. Only problem very little interest from residents willing to help. Same problem as Heritage Days.
- Probably wouldn't attend.
- That would be cool. Maybe more events in general.
- ??
- I like to have movie nights on the lawn. Maybe concert on the lawn. Monthly bingo – maybe give plants away – or lottery tickets away – a karaoke night
- Yes, but planning & implementation would need to be shared with more of our citizens.
- Would like to see more community events.
- Yes – picnics, movie night, (more Halloween back to door to door)
- That would be nice! Food trucks and bands. Or maybe part of 95 or 314 shut down for a few days to have a carnival in town, like Granville has around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

12. PLEASE INCLUDE ANY OTHER THOUGHTS/COMMENTS/IDEAS ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

- Need leaf pickup in the fall
- Have traffic speed limits put back in by state – 25 MPH have been hit (?) & removed. Slow down children signs

- Would love to see turn lanes on 95, for those turning north and south onto 314. Would help with the congestion during peak traffic times.
- If the speed limit were 35 MPH at Dollar General, trucks would be less likely to use Jake brake as they come down the hill into town. Many are well above 35 MPH as they go thru town.
- Additional LEO presence would be good. Thank you!!
- Not increase levys & property taxes again
- Would like to see paving on streets & alleys continue.
- Would love to have streetlights in the village repaired or replaced.
- Would like to see energy efficient LED streetlights installed.
- When moved in 40+ years ago, we knew almost everyone here in town, now we hardly (know) anyone
- I think Council needs to be more proactive in making ordinances for future growth. Any building should need to be approved by a committee/commission to work with the builder/developer as to what their intent is, with formal plans/drawings. The commission would work with the builder/developer to have an acceptable plan. If approved by the commission then they can present the plan to Council for changes and/or approval.
- Blight: too many yards need to be cleaned up! Maybe the village could rent a dumpster for a week so that people can purge.
- Obtain more community feedback
- Communicate w/ residents what Mayor and Village Council is doing to address the needs of the community
- Ask for input before spending \$ on items that do not produce or improve overall community.
- Where is the playground that \$ was collected to build years ago. Why has this not been built? Where is the \$?
- Please do not try to make Chesterville into an Upper Arlington, Westerville, Dublin etc. We do not need an HOA and extra demands & expectations for housing etc. We live in a rural community for a reason.
- When Big Walnut Fire Dept has finished their building and the current Fire Station is unoccupied. Remodel the old station and use it as the Village office and meeting room. Sell current Village office and invest proceeds in a safe CD. This way the Village would have a residual income without adding taxes. Or, tear down the existing office and keep land for future use.
- The property that Chesterville gave to Highland schools, Seek to obtain it back to the Village. Options for that property are endless. Community gardens. Tiny homes for homeless veterans. Pole barn for equipment storage, Village mowers, pick-up with snow plow, etc.
- There wasn't enough room (on the form) to answer your questions properly. And with using the computer, you can read what I wrote!
- Figure out a way for a company that has and installs wired internet/wifi. That should bring more people in that can afford to keep their property "orderly".
- Another community event could be showing and selling plants and flowers.
- Dog park
- Recycling program for plastic and aluminum
- Would like to encourage residents to attend Council meetings and Planning Commission meeting. Nice to try understanding Village business instead of complaining and gossip. All have a voice should they choose to attend.
- Need to somehow get residents to become involved and interested in supporting the Village.
- A good job has been done working with the Sheriff's office and landlords to eliminate the drug problems. Many of the residential areas look great. Fewer blighted houses, than in years past. Business district is embarrassing. Looking forward to firehouse.
- Lower property taxes
- When I tell people I live in Chesterville, they always ask where is Chesterville? It's good on one hand to keep it small but on the other hand if we had more businesses it would attract more traffic (not always a good thing) & people would know who, what & where we are.

- Should have a business development committee along with that housing development committee (separate from each other)
- Need turn lane on 95
- Community outreach program for locals
- Community center
- Instead of looking at the traffic being a problem we need to give them a reason to want to stop.
- Thank you for letting us fill this out and feel a part of the future.
- (Positive thought looking forward to the new fire station)
- (main the something done with the two empty buildings on the corner)
- (Some type of business going with the three empty buildings)
- Would have liked to receive the survey, I never got one. The lady from the Chesterville store gave me this to fill out.
- I'd love to see the results of this survey – we are always looking for ways to make the community stronger! (Library)
- My initial concerns are to preserve, protect, and then use the buildings we already have. It drives me nuts that they're empty, and bringing the village down. They should be a strength. Grant writers to repair and restore the town hall and village building. A plan for the fire station once it's emptied. Zoning to keep the historic character of the city so it doesn't end up looking like another soulless and bland community. Mixed use medical, food, a brew-pub, bookstore, ice cream parlor.

THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE VILLAGE WEBSITE AND WILL BE INFLUENTIAL TO OUR PLANNING EFFORTS TO BEGIN IN THE JUNE/JULY TIMEFRAME.

**PLEASE DROP THE SURVEY IN THE COUNCIL BUILDING SIDE DOOR MAIL SLOT OR MAIL IT TO THE VILLAGE BY [5-10-2024](#) (75 E Sandusky St. Chesterville, OH 43317)**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND INPUT!**