

SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINION FOR THE 2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

QUALITY OF LIFE

1. Please rate Schuylerville as a community on each of the items listed below (excellent, good, fair, or poor)

- As a place to live: 80% good to excellent
- As a place to raise children: 75% good to excellent
- As a place to educate children: 80% good to excellent
- As a place to retire: 48% good to excellent
- Connection to community: 60% good to excellent
- Connection to history: 85% good to excellent
- Openness and acceptance in the community: 43% good to excellent
- Availability of affordable childcare: 20% good to excellent; 32% poor

2. Thinking broadly, how do you feel about the future of the Village in general over the next couple of years?

Optimistic - things are getting better: 60%

Indifferent - things will stay pretty much the same

Pessimistic - things are getting worse

3. Please identify the special places in the Village that should be protected or preserved?

- Hudson Crossing Park
- Sidewalk repair! old structures taken down
- The river and parks
- Fort Hardy Park
- Retaining the affordability of Schuylerville. There should be space available for people of all walks in life.
- Schuyler House Canal Trail
- Trails Schuyler house
- Anything historical
- Our school, our youth center, our library, programs for the kids
- The overall care of awareness and education of how to care for drug issue around us. Continued proactive attending to the school and all facilities and recreation and all that's needed for families.
- Canal system and trails, Fort Hardy Park
- Downtown buildings, north and south of Ferry St. Green spaces not used for sports, along waterways an elsewhere, (like the apple farm).
- The old canal, the Marshall House and parsonage and similar classic old homes and stores.
- Broad street, canal path, Saratoga Apple land
- Fort Hardy Park Hudson Crossing Park Historic buildings/markers
- Hudson waterfront
- There is a NEED of a Community Center- a space where clubs and meetings can happen.

- Cleaning up and maintaining the old canal
 - THE CANAL!!
 - Champlain canal
 - The Old Champlain Canal, The site of the Horicon Mill
 - The river
 - Alleys are a mess Sidewalks need maintenance Diversity in shopping and dining
 - Fort Hardy Park
 - There are two Eagle Scout projects at Fort Hardy! What will happen to the both of them with your community new plan? Also, there is the Nolan remembering tree, for the soldier who died in Veit Nam! These are very important things in the community to me that should always be remembered!
 - Hudson Crossing Park, Fort Hardy Park, riverfront, canal front, Monument, Schuyler House, Broad Street businesses
 - Downtown
 - Hudson's crossing
 - The board needs to be replaced
 - Canalside areas - remove trailer homes and increase affordable housing elsewhere
 - Broad and ferry street historic area needs to be preserved and revitalized.
 - Water supply
 - Side walks
 - Downtown needs continued attention and renovation
 - Old Barge Canal, Fort Hardy Park, Storefronts, Hudson Crossing Park
 - Residents' homes
 - youth center, Hudson crossing
 - Any historical statue or sight.
 - No opinion
 - The canal and nature trails/ historical parks.
 - The old building on board street need grants to help improve the looks of Main Street.
 - The Youth Center. The Labyrinth at Hudson Crossing
 - The children need some support, lit areas of play, "late night" safe areas for congregation.
 - The walking trails
 - Fort Hardy ballfields
 - Would love to see the park updated with walking/ bike trails
 - Broad Street
 - Hudson Crossing and Fort Hardy Park
 - The whole town, fort hardy park needs to stay rustic so does the rest of the area
 - Ft. Hardy Park, Champlain Trail, historic homes
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4. If you could change one thing about the Village of Schuylerville, what would it be?

- Maintenance of buildings on Broad Street - bad optics for visitors
- Clean up of some properties and abandoned homes. More restaurants to attract other towns,
- Parking!!!!
- Better directional signage, sidewalks & safe street crossings including the ability to walk safely down to the river
- I think we need more places for teenagers to hang out. Where they feel welcomed and are allowed to be them. I also think we need more public spaces for the community in general.
- That the real estate market was higher to raise our homes values.
- More community resources
- Better sidewalk and winter maintenance of them
- Stop Engine braking in the village
- Better lighting, parking, sidewalks
- Limit large commercial vehicles over taking neighborhood around Stewart's. Nothing wrong with the Stewart's or the people working there, but it has attracted large commercial vehicles that use our small residential roads with no care. I have witnessed firsthand large trucks driving on front lawns and coming close to homes because the roads are too small for them to make wide turns. I had an event where my fiancé was yelled at and insulted by the driver of a large truck because she parked in front of our own home making it hard for him to turn his truck. It comes off as though the residents come last to the needs of these commercial vehicles
- Change: Keep negativity about people and things to a bare minimum. 2. This would be a new endeavor I believe. As we have talked at our convo gatherings: a resource ctr for all dates and happenings of area businesses, churches, school and all local venues, so as to support and care for each other's events as best we can.
- A large chunk of the commercial real estate being owned by a church and providing 0 tax revenue for the town.
- I'd love for Schuylerville to have more curb appeal, more retail shops, benches to sit, trees for shade, garbage cans. People need to feel it in order to have a reason to drive here, stop, and stay. We have a lot of car traffic, but we also have the Hudson and the canal system where people from Canada and NYC travel -- we need to give them a reason to stop and stay. Have motorized scooters or bikes to rent. The village needs more character.
- Such a simple thing: when pedestrians crossing Broad Street at Broad and Ferry have the walk signal, drivers on Ferry should have a red light. The drivers headed up the hill and making a right from Ferry onto Broad cannot see that there are people in the crosswalk until it's practically too late. It's really scary. It needs to be four way red for pedestrians to cross safely.
- I would love to see a community pool. Not only for the recreation but also the jobs it creates for teens.

- Inclusivity. Although there is a strong sense of community and welcome, it only goes so far. Many of those most enthused about helping the village, do not live in the village. Also, plan for affordable housing.
- Expand the village lines to include its postal region. At least within the Town of Saratoga but ideally also Bacon Hill.
- More youth programs
- Get as many small businesses and residents into empty buildings as possible by offering affordable housing/business rentals.
- Investment in the Fort Hardy project
- Get a Community Center
- Poor communication -- I was totally unaware of this effort until I heard the story on WAMC today.
- Residents - maybe I should say owners because too many properties are rentals - taking better care of their properties. Much better.
- Clean up of the canal. You cannot tout the trails and parks while the canal is filled with duckweed, algae and debris - to say nothing of the stench and mosquitoes!
- The boundaries
- Put in water meters
- Coordination between businesses (hours, online presence, events) to make visiting easier
- curb appeal and availability of businesses and homes between Ollie's and Stewart's
- Expand the library and it's amazing programming!
- Install water meters. This will allow lower water and sewer rates.
- add a pharmacy, perhaps at Byron's
- Better sidewalks
- Transparency
- Water is far too expensive to attract young families to the village. The increase in rental properties also takes away from the growth of the village. Renters are typically transient and do not respect property and community like a home owner would.
- Monopoly of building owners charging outrageous rent limiting the ability of small businesses to come in a grow Water & Sewer outrageous fees Parking in winter garbage pickup (stickers?? so outdated)
- Village-wide garbage pickup should be included in our village taxes rather than the current additional sticker fee.
- The mayor
- Taxes
- Stopping the speeding and running stop signs and improving sidewalks
- The people in office
- More arts, theatre
- the negativity and separation between community members
- Ground water and drainage.
- Add stop signs to Ferry and Saratoga Streets where they intersect Green Street. No one knows what to do when the traffic coming up the hill doesn't stop. Someone is going to get hurt.

- Expanding the Village boundaries and possibly getting more businesses in to help alleviate the taxes that the residence pay
 - More brick and mortar. Schuylerville needs more walkable store fronts on the main strip for people to be able to walk around the village more to appreciate what it has to offer. This would bring more income for the village and help maintain its core areas for the public.
 - Water meters
 - The water and sewer bi
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5. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:

- Remain in Village of Schuylerville for the next five years or more: 76%
- Move out of Village of Schuylerville in the next 5 years
- Recommend living in Village of Schuylerville to others

6. How would you prefer to receive information about board meetings, community meetings, and events in the Village? (check the top two)

- Village website, direct mail, email, Social media

7. Do you need information about how the individual villages of Schuylerville and Victory and town of Saratoga provide services to Schuylerville? (Yes, No, Do not know)

61% say YES

8. What municipal investment would have the greatest impact on the Village?

Water & Sewer; Ft Hardy Park

9. Are you satisfied with the overall performance of Village Government?

59% Yes

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

10. How often do you visit the Village of Schuylerville to shop, use business services, walk, eat, recreate, etc.? (Choose all that apply: Days-Weekdays, Days-Weekends, Nights-About 55% during the day M-S

11. Please identify the kind of businesses you would like to see Village of Schuylerville:

(Please select all that apply)

- Retail (clothier, pharmacy, jewelry, other)
- Entertainment

12. Please review the following aspects of Village of Schuylerville :

- Attractiveness of downtown streetscape
- Quality of eateries: 70% good to excellent

- Quality of recreation and entertainment: 52% Poor

13. Do you feel the downtown area needs improvements? Check all that apply

- Landscaping
- Parking
- Park benches

14. At what times is parking an issue in the business district?

- Weekdays: Daytime
- Weekends: Evenings

15. Do you think the number and type of community events are (about right, too many, need more) in:

- 50% say need more all seasons

16. Please identify community events that should be:

- Added (new events)
- Discontinued
- Expanded

17. What recreational sites and facilities in the Village of Schuylerville need to be improved?

- Fort Hardy Park: 69%

18. Please rate the parks and recreational opportunities in Schuylerville.

Does not meet expectations- meets expectations- exceeds or meets expectations

- Handicapped Accessibility of public parks
- Maintenance of public parks
- Safety of public parks

19. Do you find Schuylerville to be friendly for pedestrians and bicyclists? 55% say yes but needs improvement

20. Have you experienced significant property damage from frequent or intense storms? 15% say yes

21. Please identify housing issues in the Village: (check those that apply)

- Condition of housing stock
- Availability of affordable housing to rent____, to purchase____
- Homes in disrepair

22. Are you aware of the Village Zoning Code adopted in 2022? (Yes, No)

58% NO

23. Do you support the existing architectural guidelines in the Zoning Code for buildings in the Historic Main Street District?

30% yes; 10% no

24. Do you believe the Village should develop regulations for short-term rentals, VRBO (Vacation Rentals By Owner), and Airbnb rentals?

53% Yes

25. Thinking about growth in the Village over the next 10-30 years, rank the following issues by level of concern: (not concerned; somewhat concerned; very concerned)

Property Taxes

Water Quality

Housing Costs

DEMOGRAPHICS

26. Are you a current resident of the Village of Schuylerville? (yes or no). If no, where do you live?_

62% Schuylerville

27. Please indicate how much time you live in the Village of Schuylerville over the entire year. 75% year-round

28. How long have you been a resident of Schuylerville?

35% over 20 years; 12% 1-5 years

29. Please indicate your gender

56% female

30. What is your age?

45-54 largest group

31. How many children under the age of 18 currently live in your household?

40% have children

32. Where do you work in relation to your residence?

In Village or Work from home: 30%

33. Please share any other suggestions or feedback for local officials.

- I think that our leaders are doing an excellent job.
- I am concerned about the cost of sewer and water. The aging infrastructure.
- More attention to the Hudson River and Champlain canal.
- Work from home and as I am a pastor travel to other community and around area

- Bridges over the canal within the park and trail areas, weekly farmer's markets, amphitheater outside of Amigos in the old hotel spot or in FHP that hosts entertainment in the summer/fall (music, local theater, community events)
- Although there is a robust senior's group that meets in the Village, this is not provided by the Village. This is a little misleading under question 9, as in another question it is clearer in that programming is available, but not indicated as provided by the Village. I could see the Towns of Saratoga, Northumberland, and Greenwich, along with the Village coming together to provide funding and resources for this group. As per sustainability in the broadest sense, be it economical, environmental, or social - continuing to enhance walkability along with services and businesses that provide necessities is key. Programs and events that continue to heavily involve Village and Town residents along with tourism are part of the sustainability. As I participate in a few committees or groups I have become aware of how few people are actually from the Village. This survey is great to that end of getting them involved.
- Other communities are watching the momentum Schuylerville is building. Greenwich, for example, is starting to replicate it. Embrace and encourage this by sharing experiences (successes and issues) and promotion across your neighbors. If you "flood" the momentum, all will rise with it.
- There is so much potential here, and we are in the midst of an amazing vibe in the village. I am proud to be even an adjacent part of it
- With Schuylerville being elected a "NYS Trail Town" I would make "The Canal" a top priority for visitors to enjoy! Presently it is a disgrace that can be addressed pretty easily, by implementing the flow of water through the canal with minimal cost (if any) to the "NYS Trail Town".
- NYS has code that applies to property maintenance. PLEASE enforce it. I have no problem giving a break to resident owners who cannot afford repairs. Rental property owners must never be given a pass. The village has a law regarding obstructed sidewalks (trees, shrubs, etc.). Please enforce it. Thank you for the sidewalk improvements so far. Please press forward on this as much as possible. Despite the general negativity of this survey response, I think we have a great mayor and generally a good village board. Lastly, have you considered covering the south side of the firehouse roof with solar panels? Lots of acreage there. I would love to see more solar here. I am hoping to do it on my own house. Thanks.
- We moved to this town for it's great school and quaint downtown that was on the upswing over 25 years ago. The bright future that we envisioned for this community has never truly come to pass. Where are the shops? Where are the sidewalks? The feral cats are still a huge problem, crime and drugs continue to rise. Community information is beyond difficult to connect with. The one place that has flourished while we have lived here is the public library. They continue to grow and develop programs while seeing the need for programming and communication. Their expense is tasteful and provides the community more of what it needs.
- Need law enforcement and more volunteers
- Replace all boards in both villages and water dept.
- Happy with how much the current mayor has accomplished for Schuylerville.

- Water and sewer authorities need financial structure to make rates feasible. Otherwise, business and housing will not grow.
- Clarity in zoning and building permits. Sidewalks, winter parking towing should be tickets unless it's actually snowing or seriously impending storm.
- Absentee landlords not taking care of their property and renting to bad tenants that have brought crime into our village.
- Continuing to improve youth programs and places for families to gather will benefit the Village and make it a desirable place for new families to move and grow. Youth and families drive local communities and we need to focus on amenities that attract that to our village and town.
- The village needs street signs. So many are missing. If you want to encourage people to come and visit then this is important. Also PLEASE change the stop sign positioning on Green. It makes no sense and is going to cause an accident.
- Love this village. Want to be sure it continues to move forward
- More community events and places for music/entertainment
- The Village should be more welcoming to new businesses and address housing issues like aging in place and affordability.
- The village of Schuylerville in the long run needs a face lift and more walkable storefronts among broad street. Fort Hardy could really use a skatepark and more things to do for kids/young adults along with lights for the baseball fields and an updated basketball court.
- There is more than the fort hardy park I feel that needs work. We need work done on our streets and alleys. We also need to look at ways to lower the water and sewer bill taxes.
- They need to set up Fort hardy Toward the people like concert ,Tennis courts.Pickball things for people to do water park. Anything to draw people to the area
- The school is becoming too political and so is our politicians. It's their way or the highway. We have no voice or they block us
- Need to plan if Schuylerville will become a tourist destination or not.
- This used to be a thriving village, with diverse business. There was an IGA, Pharmacy, bakery, furniture stores, etc. Further back there was a wallpaper factory. The village does have some nice businesses now but they are mainly speciality stores and only cater to a few. Crime, even though it is minor things has been on the rise and response time for the Sherriffs or State Police takes a very long time. It isn't their fault, they are spread thin. Everytime there is a parade or event downtown there are no bathrooms for the public and most of the time the bathrooms are locked near the monument as well. This town has the potential to be great again, people need to come up with common sense solutions and deal with important issues first , like working water mains and clean water. Childcare and affordable housing will help make our young people want to stay here and help build the future.
- New government
- Need all sidewalks to be completed for the safety of all residents
- can the trinket shops downtown be replaced with real retail stores. Stores that would interest the majority and give people a reason to come into the village

- I do love living in this Village, but I wish its residents wanted to take better care of it.
 - Improve main street historically. Make attractive. Used to be street cars....would be tourist attraction if street was wider. No bus transportation available. Youth need free activities.
 - No issue with the new smoke shop in town, just don't like their neon lights and visual presence. It could be more tastefully done. Would love to see the beachfront at Ft Hardy revitalized to a swimming beach. Bring in food trucks on weekends to serve beach goers. A retail/rental shop catering to our opportunities for outdoor recreation (kayaks, hiking boots, cross country skis, bicycles, etc)
 - The parking lane heading north before the Spring Street/Broad Street intersection should not be used as a drive lane. It is a safety hazard. Grant monies should be used to fix sidewalks on the east side of Broad Street as was done for the west side.
 - Thanks for making this thoughtful survey!
 - Upgrading Ft. Hardy Park, and making use of the old victory mill (and upgrading related infrastructure) would really go a long way.
 - We have a major opportunity with the National Park, it needs to be addressed.
 - I would like to thank those who have and are serving in the Village seats. The work put forth is thankless and considered never enough by some. I would ask that the decisions that are made to be unbiased because it is the right thing to do.
 - The olde Saratoga Seniors have become quite vibrant and it would be lovely to have a senior center.
 - Put up signs to stop engine braking/jake braking in the village
 - If there will be more visitors I would like to see a police presence.
-