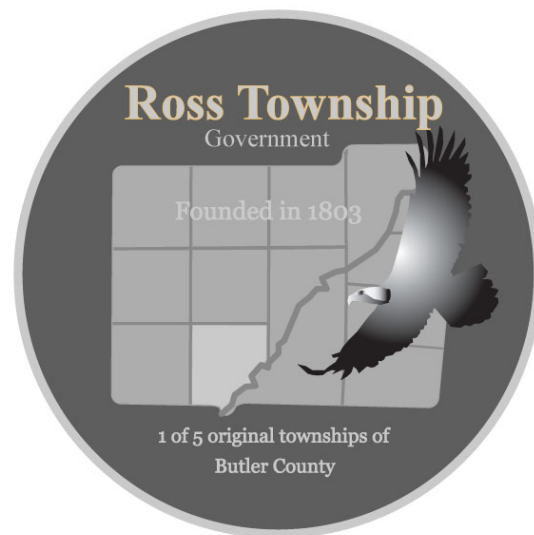

ROSS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SURVEY

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2006



PREPARED BY



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Ross Township Community Survey

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2006

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report represents the findings of 1,348 responses to the Ross Township (Butler County) Community Survey. These data represent a snapshot of the views concerning a variety of issues in Ross Township at this time. Township officials may find the data useful on two levels. First, general views about the delivery and quality of the services provided to residents may be valuable in long range planning efforts. Second, residents' views and ratings of specific conditions provide baseline data for continued benchmarking and ongoing evaluation of service delivery. We are pleased to have worked with Township officials. Township Trustees Thomas E. Willsey and Ellen Yordy provided valuable input into the development and administration of the survey project. Ross Township residents Tim Taylor and Lyn Walraven also provided valuable input into the development of the survey instrument.

Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs:

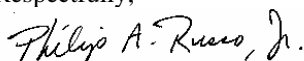
- Dr. Philip A. Russo, Jr., Director
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Ross Township Officials:

- Thomas E. Willsey, Trustee
- Raymond J. Wurzelbacher, Trustee
- Ellen Yordy, Trustee
- Judy Huffman, Fiscal Officer

The Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs at Miami University engages in applied research, technical assistance services, training and education, and data base development in the areas of public management and capacity building, local government economic development and planning, and public program evaluation and policy research. The Center's full-time professional staff holds advanced degrees in public administration, policy/program evaluation, and community planning. The Center's activities are funded by external grants and contracts from a number of funding sources including Ohio's Rural Universities Program and the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

Respectfully,



Philip A. Russo, Jr.
Director, Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs
Professor, Political Science, Miami University

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Some of the key findings from the Ross Township (Butler County) Community Survey conducted by the Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs at Miami University include:

- 86.8% of the respondents reported living outside the boundaries of the Village of Millville.
- 40.2% of the respondents have lived in Ross Township for more than 20 years.
- 95.3% of the respondents are homeowners.
- Respondent gender was 56.4% female and 43.6% male.
- 77.9% of the respondents are married.
- 94.4% of the respondents are very satisfied (46.9%) or satisfied (47.5%) with living in Ross Township.
- 52.3% of the respondents think the Township has “stayed about the same” in the past five years.
- 79.5% of the respondents indicated they were “happy here and will probably stay for the next five years.”
- 57.0%, 42.1%, and 45.3% think that police protection, fire protection, and emergency medical services have “stayed about the same” over the past three years respectively.
- 41.9% of the respondents think that fire protection has “become better” over the past three years.
- 54.2% and 39.3% think that street and road conditions and zoning enforcement have “stayed about the same” over the past three years respectively.
- 25.1% of the respondents think that zoning enforcement has “become worse” over the past three years.
- 62.9% of the respondents strongly agree (15.7%) or agree (47.2%) that they are satisfied with the current level of police protection provided by the Ross Township Police Department.

- 73.0% of the respondents strongly agree (22.8%) or agree (50.2%) that they are satisfied with the current level of fire protection provided by the township.
- 70.7% of the respondents strongly agree (23.9%) or agree (46.8%) that they are satisfied with the current level of emergency medical service (EMS) provided by the township.
- Junked cars (33.5%), miscellaneous junk (29.2%), litter (26.3%), vegetation height (weeds and brush) (25.4%), and unattended pets (20.8%) were the most commonly cited public nuisances that Ross Township has not adequately addressed.
- 53.4% are very satisfied (6.6%) or satisfied (46.8%) with the enforcement of zoning codes in Ross Township.
- 75.1% of the respondents would like to see public parks and recreational facilities developed within the Township with fitness trail/hiking path/walking path being the most commonly cited (60.9%).
- 85.8% of the respondents have not visited the official Ross Township Internet website at <http://www.rosstwp.org> in the past month.
- 76.7% of the respondents would prefer to receive information concerning Township news, meetings, and events from a Township newsletter.

INTRODUCTION

Ross Township is located in Butler County, Ohio. According to the 2000 United States Census, Ross Township has a total population of 6,448 living in 2,318 households. Since part of the Village of Millville is located within Ross Township, the Township Trustees decided to include Millville households within Ross Township receiving Ross Township services.

The staff at the Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs at Miami University conducted a mail survey in September and October 2006. Township officials were interested in assessing attitudes towards a variety of issues and services that affect residents of the Township. Specifically, they were interested in general attitudes regarding the quality of life as well as growth and development in Ross Township as well as attitudes toward the services provided to the residents of the Township including street and road conditions, public safety, zoning, and parks and recreation facilities. Identifying preferences and interests of residents can assist Township officials with long-term planning efforts for the Township.

The objectives of the survey were to better understand current satisfaction levels with Township services and to identify areas or issues that may require the attention of Township officials in the future. Through an objective analysis of survey responses, Township officials can evaluate these findings and establish priorities and strategies to better address the needs of the entire community.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A survey questionnaire was mailed to all households in Ross Township. The Township Trustees assisted with procuring a mailing list from the Butler County, Ohio Auditor's Office based on their database of property records. A total of 2,946 households were mailed surveys in September 2006. Each survey packet included a survey instrument and a return-addressed postage-paid envelope. The survey requested that one member of the household who is 18 years of age or older and a resident of the Township complete the survey. A reminder card was mailed approximately ten days after the first survey instrument had been mailed. A second survey instrument was mailed approximately three weeks after the first one. The second survey instrument packet was identical to the first one and provided households with a second opportunity to participate. A second reminder card was mailed approximately ten days after the second instrument had been mailed. A total of 1,348 usable responses were returned, for a response rate of 53.07%¹. The response rate is calculated using the total number of households mailed (2,946) less vacant (82), undeliverable (164), and unusable (160) addresses for a net total of 2,540 households.

Figure 1:

Net Households Mailed	2,540
Households Responding	1,348
Response Rate	53.07%
Confidence Interval	± 2.0%

The standard margin of error in this survey is $\pm 2\%$ at the 95% confidence interval. This means that we can be 95% confident that the responses are accurate to within $\pm 2\%$ of respondents' views at the time of the survey.

All surveys are subject to sources of error, such as bias in the wording of questions, timing, issue salience, as well as other factors. The instrument design, format, and timing attempted to increase the response rate and to minimize bias. There is little reason to suspect that the data collection procedures introduced any significant bias, and the findings reported can be taken as an accurate reflection of respondent opinion at the time. However, these opinions are ephemeral and therefore may change over time. Thus, they reflect a snapshot of respondents' views at the time the survey was conducted.

The majority of surveys returned were completed in full. However, some respondents chose not to answer parts or specific questions in the survey. Incomplete surveys were included in the database, thus some questions may have more responses than others. Due to rounding, some of the reported percentages may not equal 100%.

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

The survey instrument was drafted by the staff and students at the Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs in consultation with Ross Township officials. The survey questions were designed to elicit responses in several forms. While the instrument comprised forced choice, ranking, and rating intensity questions, open ended questions allowed the respondent to describe in their own words concerns about a number of issues about living in Ross Township.

¹ The response rate is calculated by subtracting the vacant (82), undeliverable (164), and unusable addresses (160) from the total number of households mailed (2,946) for a net household base of 2,540.

The first set of questions asked about residents' overall views about life in Ross Township. Residents were asked to indicate whether they lived within or outside the boundaries of the Village of Millville. Also, residents were asked to provide information about how long they have lived in Ross Township, their overall satisfaction with living in the Township, and how living in the Township had changed in the past five years. Residents were then asked to list “the three qualities that you **like** the most” and “the three qualities that you **dislike** the most” about living in Ross Township. Next, residents were asked about their intentions to remain in Ross Township or move away in the next five years. Finally, residents were asked to imagine Ross Township five years from now and indicate how much growth the Township should pursue. Residents were also given the opportunity to identify the types of growth they would like to see in Ross Township.

The second section of questions gathered information on a variety of services offered to Ross Township residents. Residents were asked about how service delivery had changed in the past three years in regard to services such as police protection, fire protection, emergency medical services, street and road conditions, and zoning enforcement. Residents were then asked to rate the change over the past three years of a variety of street, road, and sign conditions, including street name signs, highway route signs, speed limit postings, pothole repair, drains and ditches, and snow & ice removal.

The next set of questions focused specifically on public safety in the Township. Residents were asked to indicate their satisfaction with current levels of police protection, fire protection, and emergency medical services (EMS) provided by the township. Residents were also asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with specific police services including: on-duty patrol, response time to requests, general community

outreach, and school programs and outreach. They were asked how many times they had seen on-duty Ross Township police officers patrolling in their neighborhood in the past month. Residents were asked to indicate which areas of police service could be improved, including: more cruiser patrol, improved response time to requests for assistance, more on-duty officers, improved general community outreach, and improved school programs and outreach. Of specific interest, residents were asked to indicate their preferences towards the creation of a paid, full-time fire/emergency medical services department in the next three to five years.

A fourth set of questions asked residents about zoning code enforcement in Ross Township. Residents were asked to identify public nuisances that the Township has not adequately addressed. Additionally, residents were asked to indicate their satisfaction with the enforcement of zoning codes in Ross Township.

A fifth section of questions was designed to obtain views on the parks and recreation facilities provided by the Township. Residents were first asked whether they would like to see public parks and recreational facilities developed within the Township. Next, residents were asked their opinion on what facilities they would like to see developed within the Township.

A sixth set of questions asked residents about their attitudes and perceptions about Township government, while the seventh section of questions dealt with township communication. Residents were asked how many Township Trustee meetings they have attended in the past two years. Furthermore, residents were asked how many times they had visited the official Ross Township Internet website (<http://www.rosstwp.org>) in the past month. Finally, residents were asked to identify the sources from which they would

like to receive information concerning Township news, meetings, and events, including: a dedicated column in local newspapers, cable television public access channel, Township newsletter, and Township Internet web site.

The final set of questions collected a number of demographic characteristics including: home ownership, family size and age groupings, gender, marital status, and the years in which the respondent and their spouse, if applicable, were born. The last section of the survey provided respondents with an opportunity to write-in additional thoughts or comments if they desired.

SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS: The Ross Township Community Survey collected baseline demographic data from responding households. This demographic data can be compared to the 2000 Census results to gauge the characteristics of household respondents as compared to actual Census demographics.

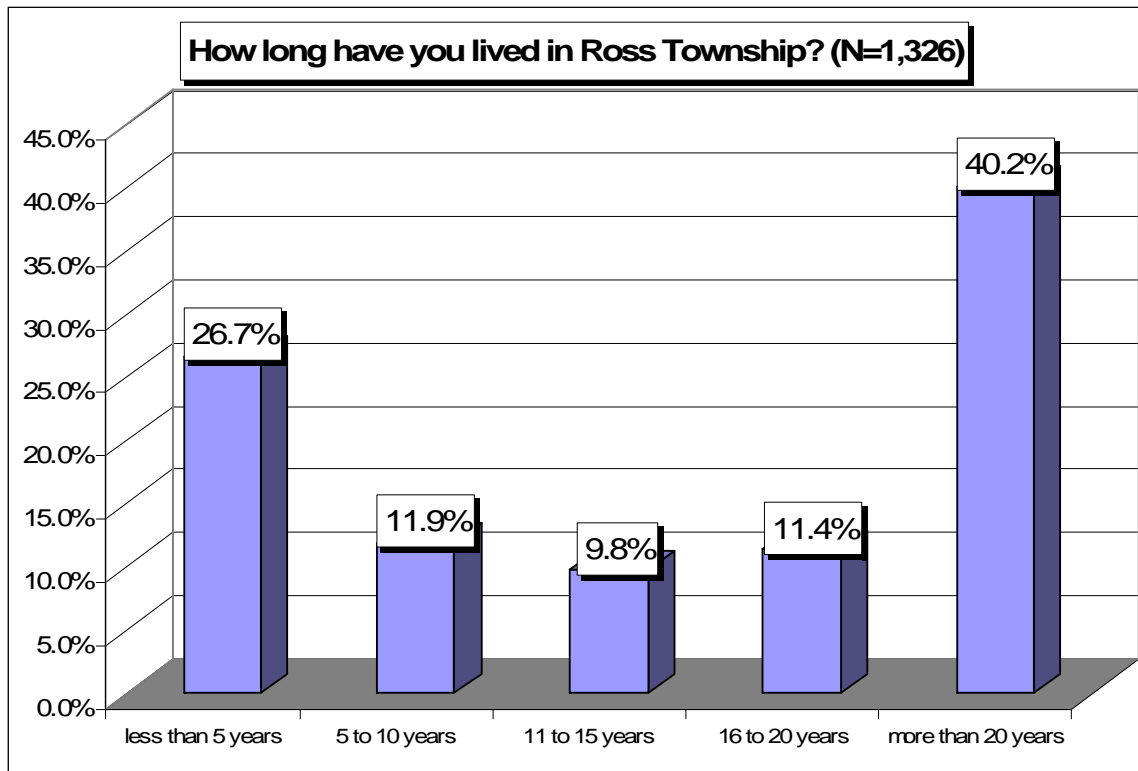
Table 3: Demographic Characteristics

Demographic Category	2000 Census	2006 Survey
Gender:		
Male	49.8%	43.6%
Female	50.2%	56.4%
Marital Status:		
Married	69.2%	77.9%
Single (never married)	21.0%	4.4%
Single (divorced)	6.4%	8.9%
Surviving Spouse	3.9%	7.7%
Households with Minor Children	40.8%	34.9%
Home Ownership	86.7%	95.3%

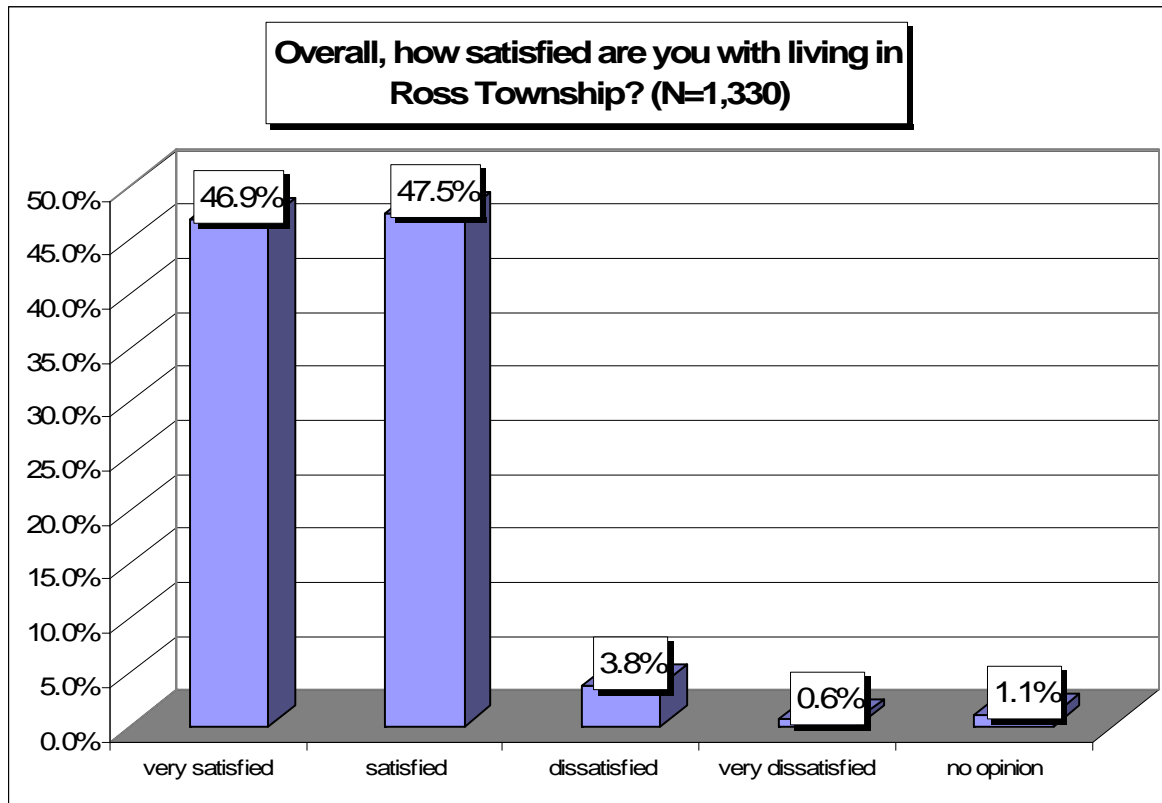
As Table 3 indicates, female, married, and home owner respondents are slightly over-represented in the survey, while single (never married) respondents and households with

minor children are under-represented in the household population. However, this Census comparison suggests that the respondents were proportionately representative of the overall population of Ross Township.

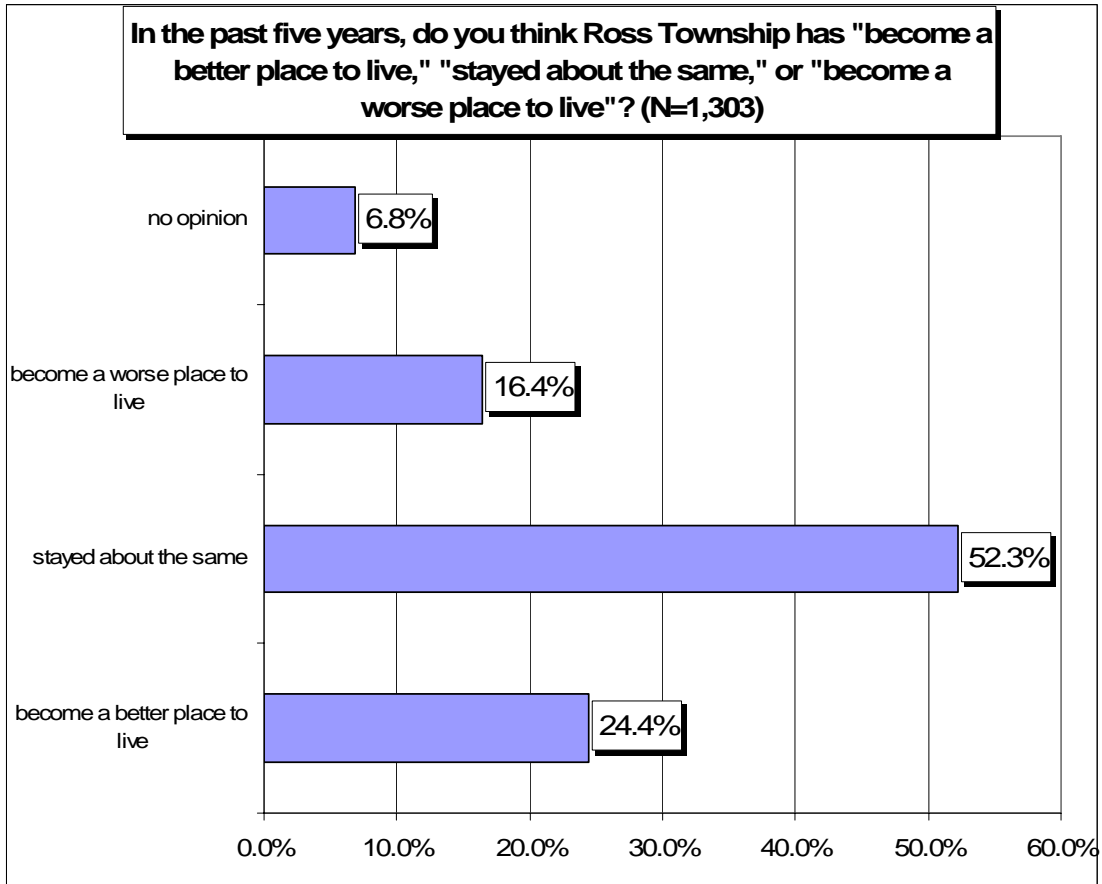
TOWNSHIP LIFE: The vast majority (86.8%) of survey respondents indicated that they reside in Ross Township outside the boundaries of the Village of Millville. It is not uncommon for long-term residents (more than 20 years) to account for a majority of the responses to a community survey of this nature. As the chart below indicates, survey respondents represent a distribution across all categories of length of residency. While more than four out of ten respondents were long-term residents, over twenty-five percent have resided in the Township for five years or less. This is a positive indicator of wide spread interest in the Township by both longer-term residents as well as relative newcomers.



Well over nine out of ten respondents indicated their overall satisfaction with living in Ross Township. Nearly five in ten indicated that they were very satisfied (46.9%) with living in the Township; another 47.5% were satisfied with living in the Township. Only 4.4% of the respondents indicated they were dissatisfied (3.8%) or very dissatisfied (0.6%) with living in Ross Township.



As a second measure of satisfaction, the survey asked residents to consider how living in the Township has changed in the past five years. While 52.3% indicated that Ross Township has “stayed about the same,” 24.4% indicated that Ross Township has “become a better place to live.” 16.4% thought the Township has “become a worse place to live” in the past five years.



Residents were asked to identify “the three qualities that you **like** the most” and “the three qualities that you **dislike** the most” about living in Ross Township. Over 5,700 discrete comments were provided in response to these two questions (approximately 3,200 positive (“likes”) aspects and nearly 2,500 negative (“dislikes”) aspects). A content analysis was conducted on both sets of comments allowing similar responses to be aggregated into general categories. Approximately six out of ten positive aspects identified as qualities that people like about living in Ross Township were aggregated into “quality of life” issues. These positive quality of life aspects included such things as small town atmosphere, country living, rural setting, peace and quiet, privacy, and good people/neighbors. Slightly more than 15% of respondents mentioned the local school district (Ross Local School District) as a quality that people like about living in Ross

Township. Other positive aspects identified included the proximity of the Township to other locations such as the City of Hamilton, City of Fairfield, Fairfield Township, and Colerain Township (Northgate area) as well as proximity to work, school, and family, and the quality of public services provided to residents, particularly police protection and fire and emergency medical services.

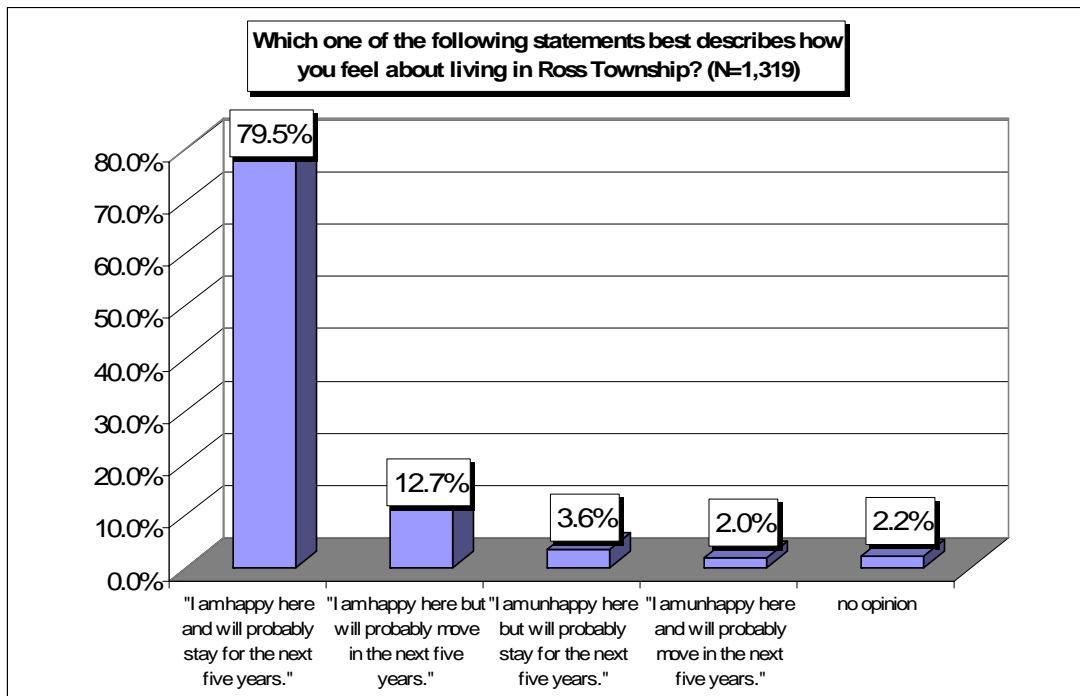
The negative aspects to living in the Township were more broadly dispersed across a variety of categories. Issues with growth and development (increased development and construction, lack of retail and restaurant options, zoning enforcement, etc.) were the most frequently cited qualities that respondents dislike about living in Ross Township. Traffic issues (including congestion, speeding, and road maintenance) and government related issues (including tax rates and Township services) were also cited as qualities that respondents dislike about living in Ross Township. Finally, a number of respondents expressed a dislike for issues related to the schools in the area (including overcrowding and the Ross Local School District Income Tax).

Table 1: Qualities That You Like/Dislike the Most About Living in Ross Township

Like	Dislike
Quality of Life	Growth and Development
Schools	Traffic
Proximity of Township	Government related issues
Quality of Public Services	Schools

While a previous question asked residents to take a retrospective look and assess change over the past five years, the next two questions asked them to look into the future. Again using a five-year time horizon, respondents were asked to indicate both their level of happiness and whether or not they anticipated staying in the Township. As the

following chart shows, nearly eight out of ten respondents are both happy in Ross Township and intend to stay for the next five years. This information may be useful to the Township as it looks to develop long-term plans and strategies for what appears to be a very stable population base.



Furthermore, residents were asked to imagine the Township five years from now and indicate how much growth the Township should pursue. A majority of respondents (51.2%) think the Township should “pursue moderate growth,” while 41.3% of respondents think the Township should “remain the same.” Only 6.3% think the Township should “pursue significant growth” in the next five years. It should be noted that individual respondents may have differing views of what constitutes significant or moderate growth.

In order to understand what respondents may have meant by significant or moderate growth, a follow-up question asked them to specify what types of growth they

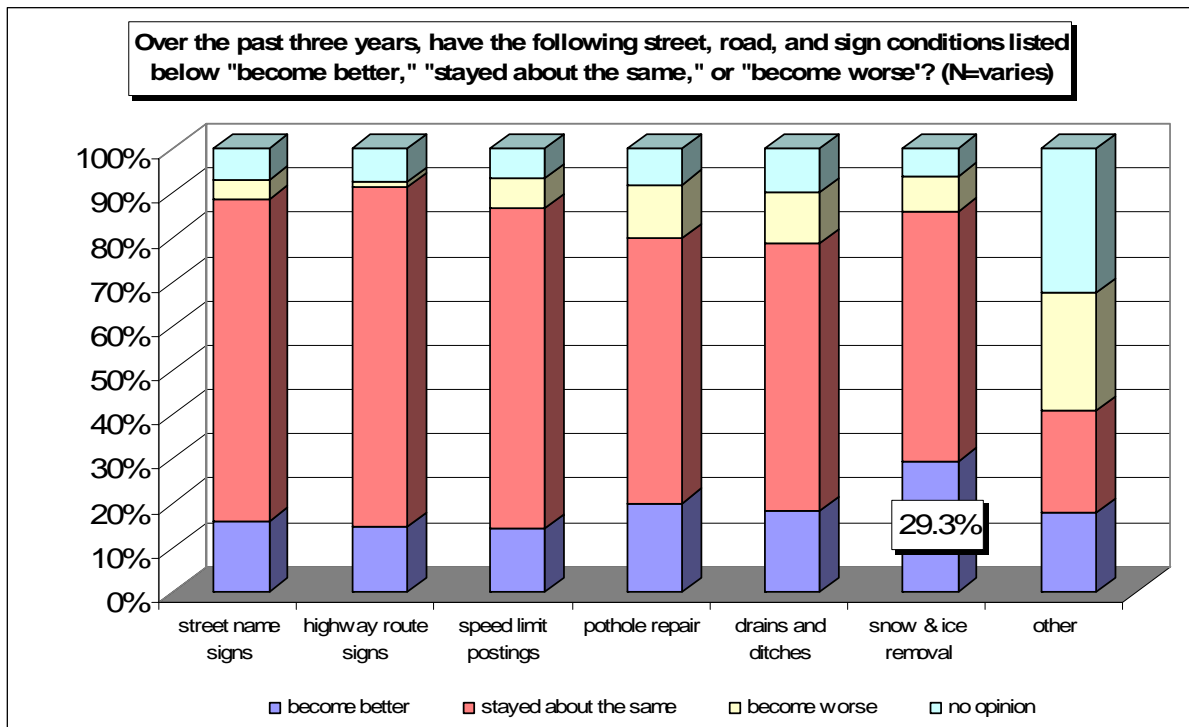
would like to see in Ross Township. A content analysis of the 1,139 responses to this question allowed similar responses to be aggregated into general categories. Over 22% of respondents indicated that they would like to see Ross Township pursue controlled or restricted growth in terms of improved land use planning, increased zoning code enforcement, and restrictions on the lot size and quantity of new residential homes being built in the Township. Slightly more than 18% of respondents would like to see the Ross Township pursue no additional growth and development. Nearly one out of five respondents would like to see the Township pursue retail growth; many of these respondents identified a grocery store as a retail option that they would like to see in the Township. Finally, slightly more than 12% of respondents indicated that they would like to see the township pursue growth in the form of additional restaurants in Ross Township.

TOWNSHIP SERVICES: Ross Township provides a number of services to its residents. Residents were asked to indicate whether these township services had “become better,” “stayed about the same,” or “become worse” over the past three years. Over 50% of respondents indicated that four of the five services had either “become better” or “stayed about the same” over the past three years. Just fewer than 50% of respondents indicated that zoning enforcement had either “become better” or “stayed about the same” over the past three years. Details are shown in the table below.

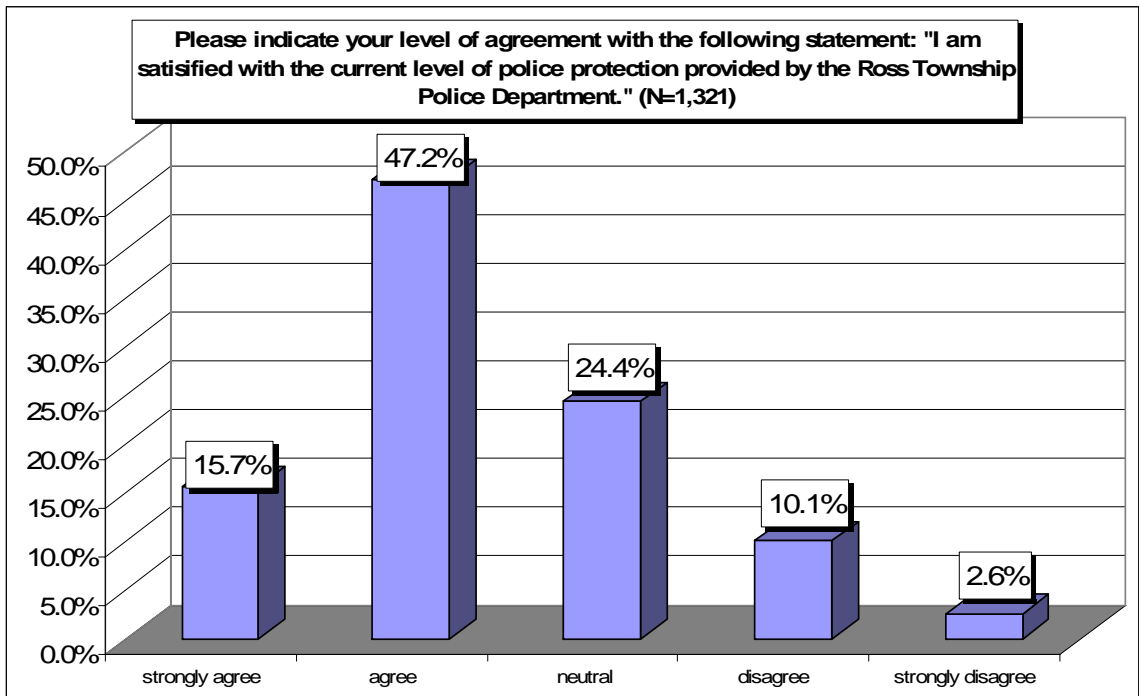
Table 2: Township Services Over the Past Three Years (N=varies)

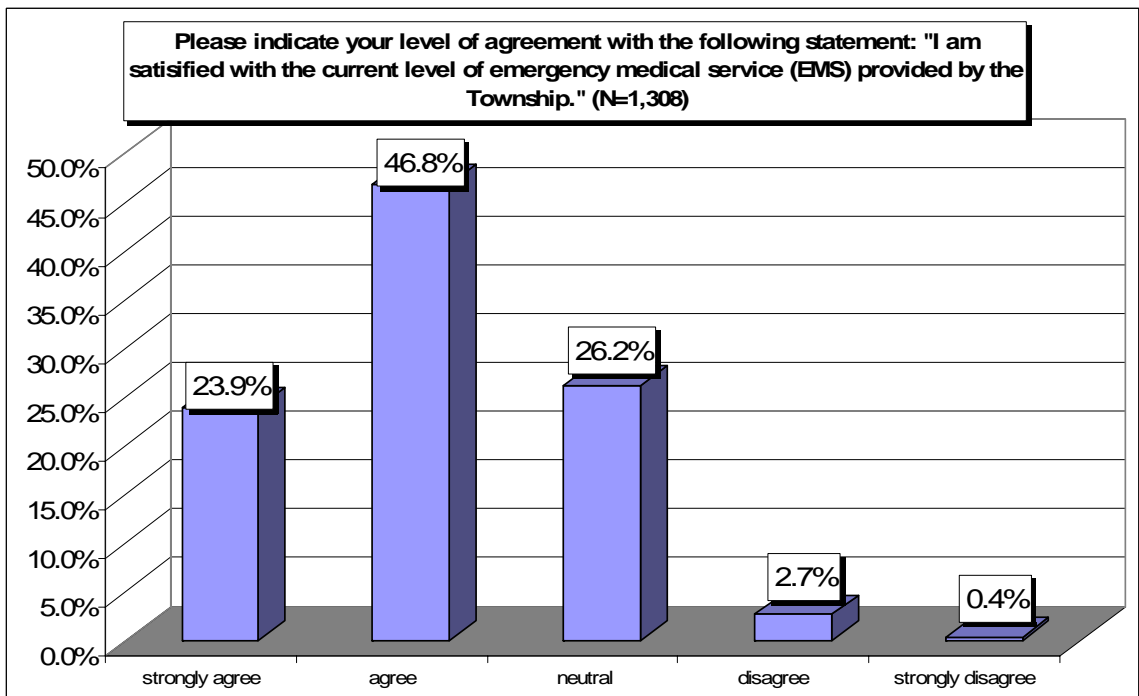
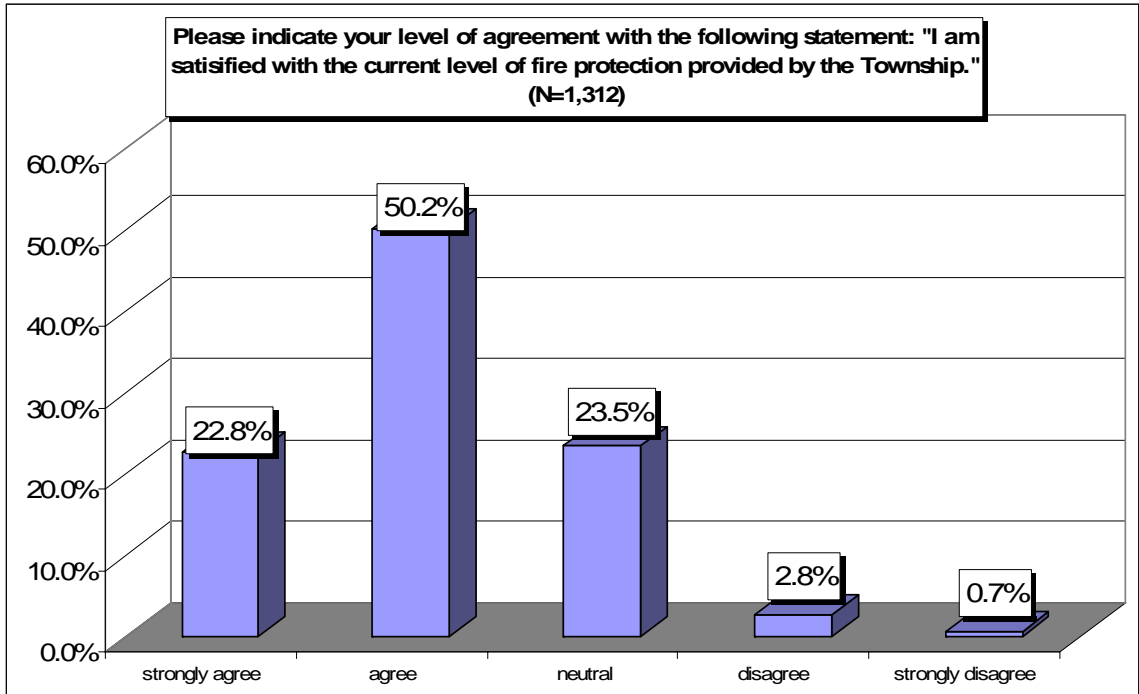
	become better	stayed about the same	become worse	no opinion
police protection	23.4%	57.0%	5.1%	14.5%
fire protection	41.9%	42.1%	0.8%	15.1%
emergency medical services	36.8%	45.3%	0.8%	17.1%
street and road conditions	22.2%	54.2%	16.3%	7.3%
zoning enforcement	8.8%	39.3%	25.1%	26.9%

Residents were then asked to assess the condition and maintenance of streets, roads, and signs in Ross Township over the same period of time. As the chart below indicates, most respondents indicated that the condition and maintenance of streets, roads, and signs in the Township have “stayed about the same” (pink bars) over the past three years. One particular service that stood out positively in the responses to this question was that of snow & ice removal. 29.3% of respondents indicated that this particular service had “become better” over the past three years.



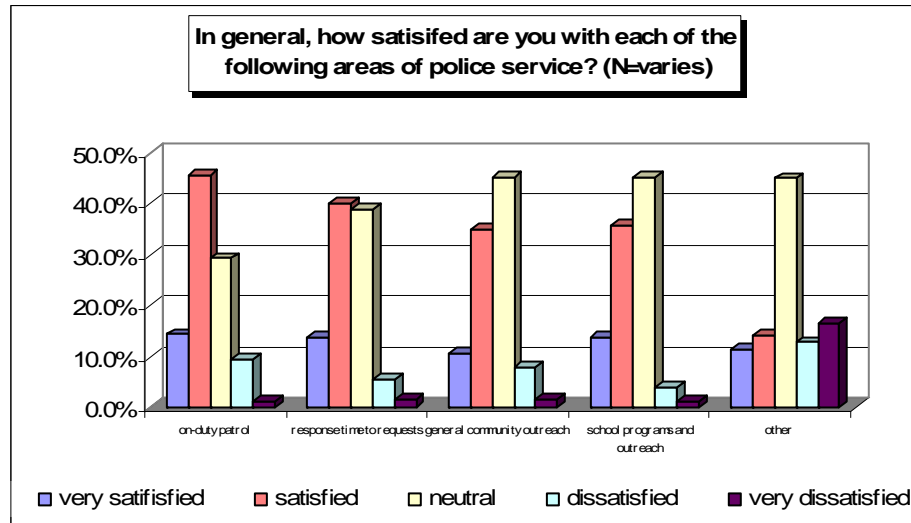
PUBLIC SAFETY: Previously, residents were asked to assess the change over time with regard to public safety services in the Township. The next set of questions asked them to consider the levels of satisfaction with the public safety services provided to residents. Respondents indicated generally high satisfaction rates with the level of public safety services (police protection, fire protection, and emergency medical services (EMS)) provided to residents.



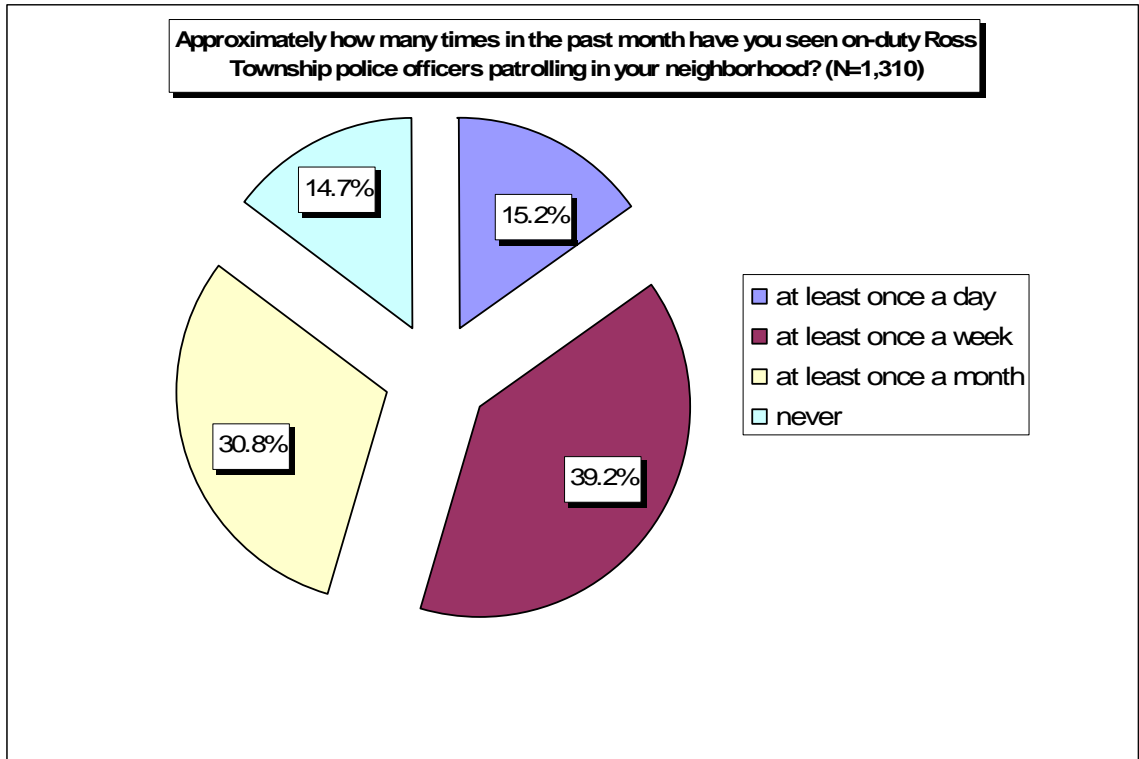


Looking more specifically at police services, residents were first asked to indicate their satisfaction with several specific areas of police service provided by the Ross Township Police Department. While there were a fair number of neutral responses

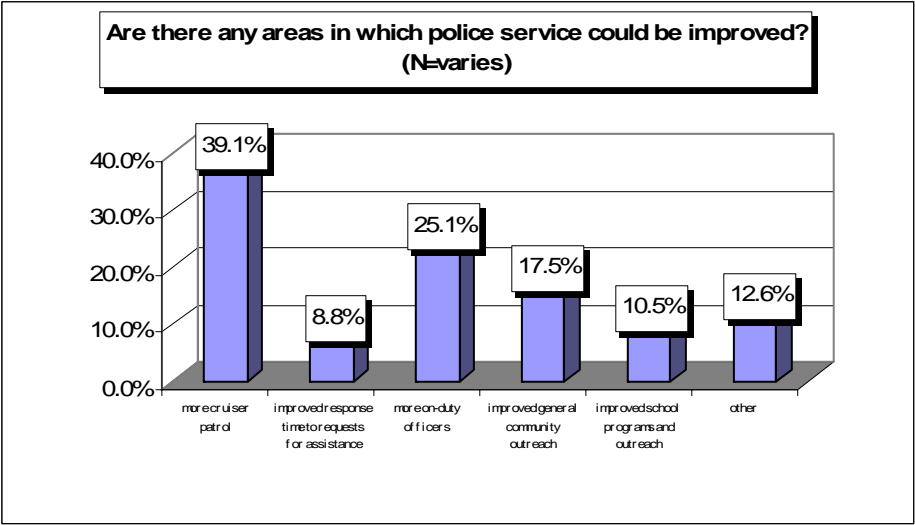
(29.3%, 39.1%, 45.3%, and 45.4% respectively) to this question, respondents expressed their overall satisfaction with on-duty patrol, response time to requests, general community outreach, and school programs and outreach.



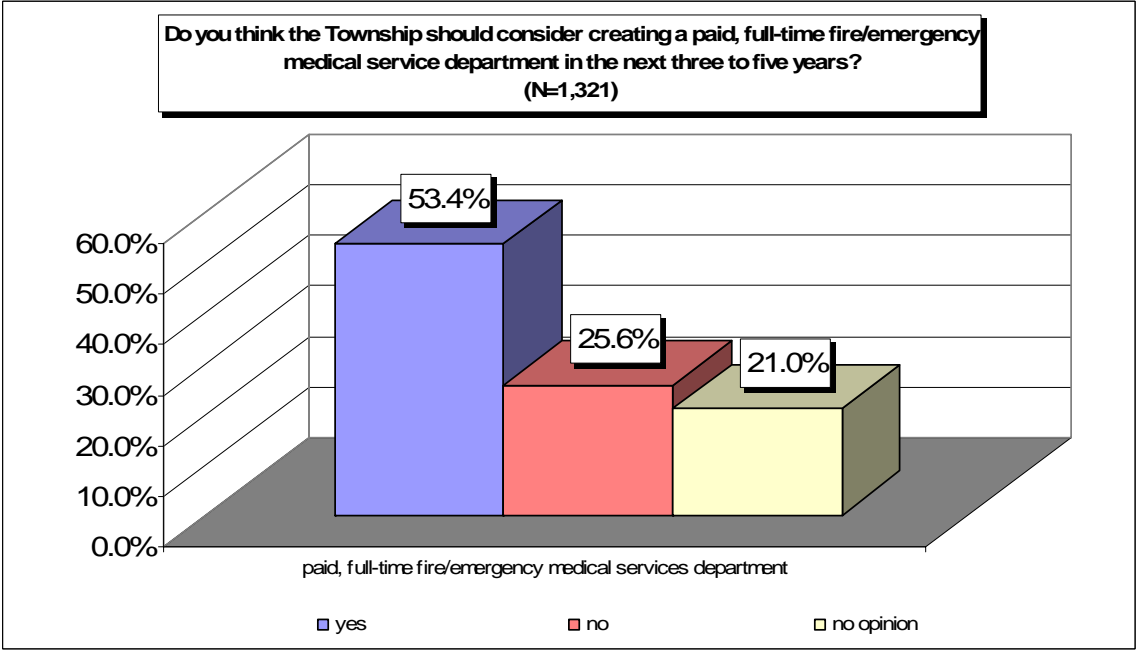
As a measure of residents' perception of police visibility, they were asked approximately how many times in the past month had they seen on-duty Ross Township police officers patrolling in their neighborhood. Over 50% of the respondents indicated that they had seen Ross Township police officers at least once a week (39.2%) or at least once a day (15.2%) patrolling in their neighborhood



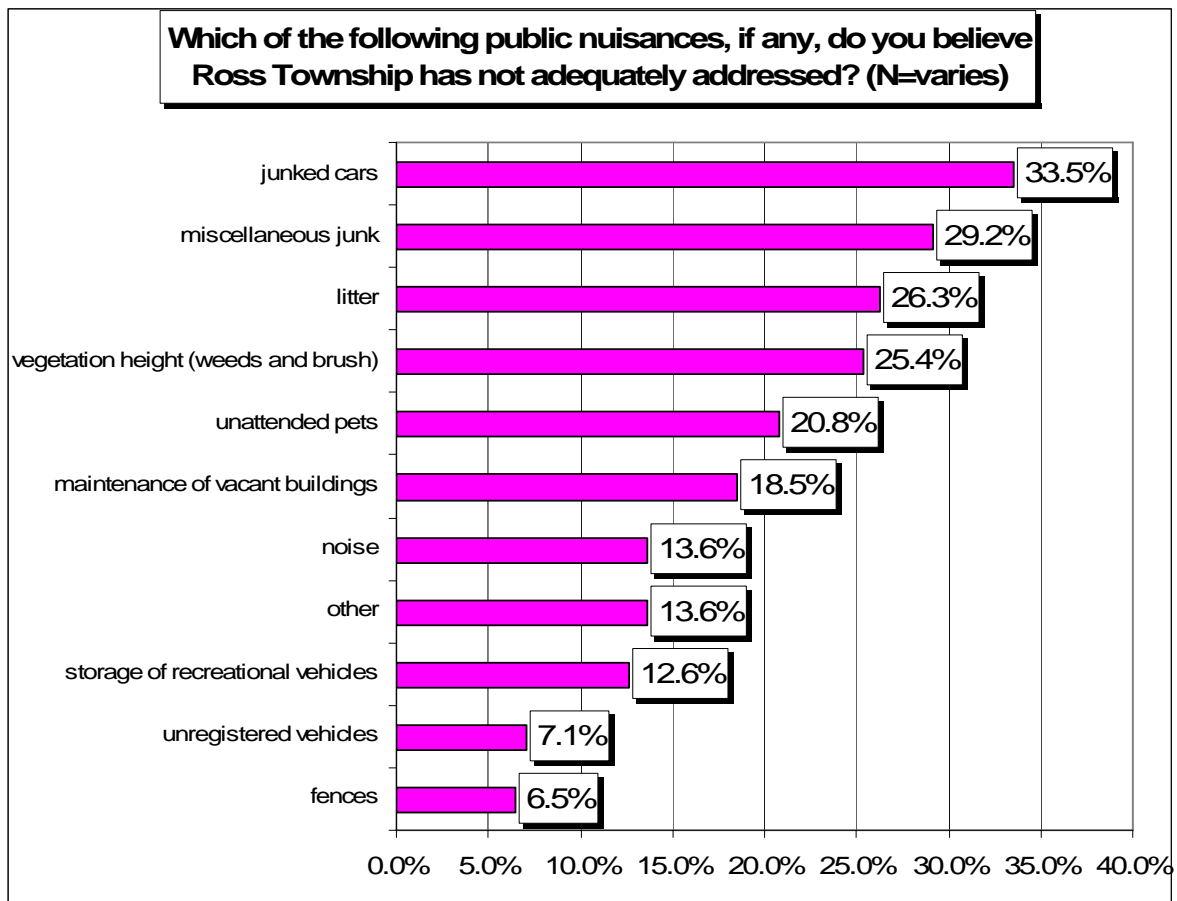
In terms of identifying areas in which police service could improve, residents were asked to select from among the following choices: more cruiser patrol, improved response time to requests for assistance, more on-duty officers, improved general community outreach, and improved school programs and outreach. Residents could select all areas that applied. The areas of police service that residents would most like to see improved in Ross Township were: more cruiser patrol (39.1%) and more on-duty officers (25.1%).



Looking to the future, slightly more than half (53.4%) of all respondents indicated the Township should consider creating a paid, full-time fire/emergency medical services department the next three to five years. 25.6% of all respondents do not think the Township should consider creating a paid, full-time fire/emergency medical services department in the next three to five years, while 21.0% had no opinion on the issue.

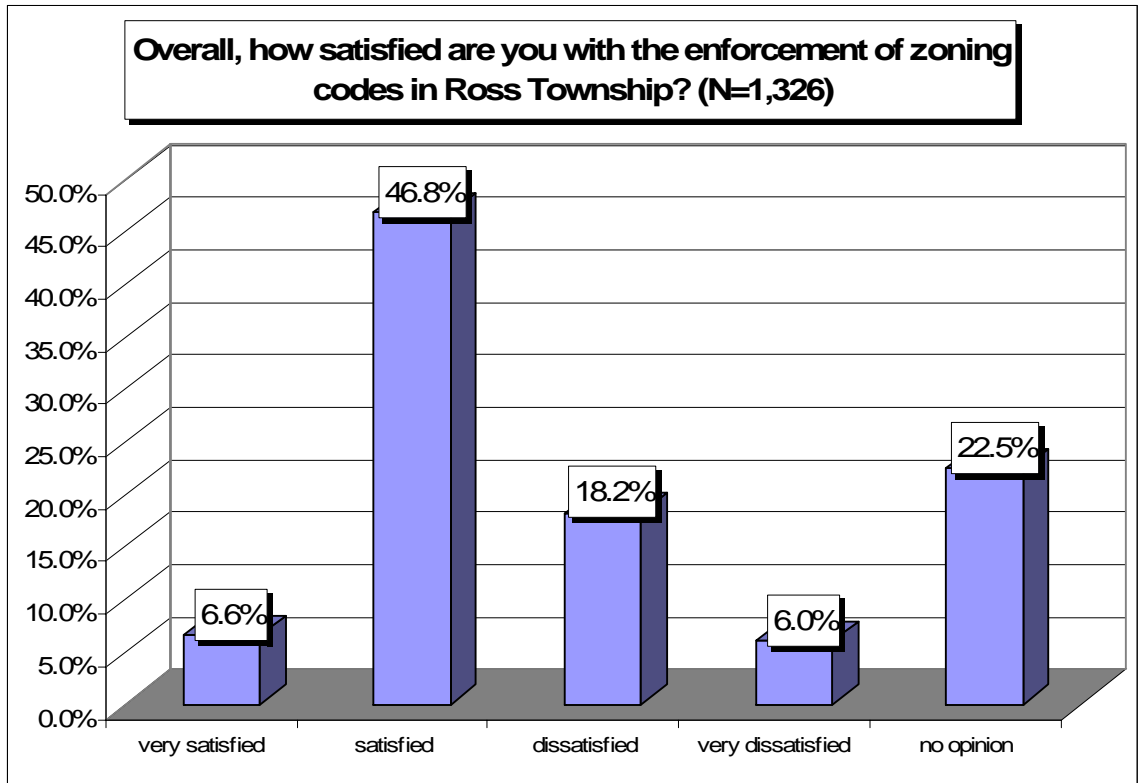


ZONING CODE ENFORCEMENT: This set of questions was designed to capture opinions regarding zoning regulations and code enforcement. The first question asked residents to identify which public nuisances they believe Ross Township has not adequately addressed. Respondents identified junked cars (33.5%), miscellaneous junk (29.2%), litter (26.3%), vegetation height (weeds and brush) (25.4%), and unattended pets (20.8%) as the top five nuisances not adequately addressed by the Township.

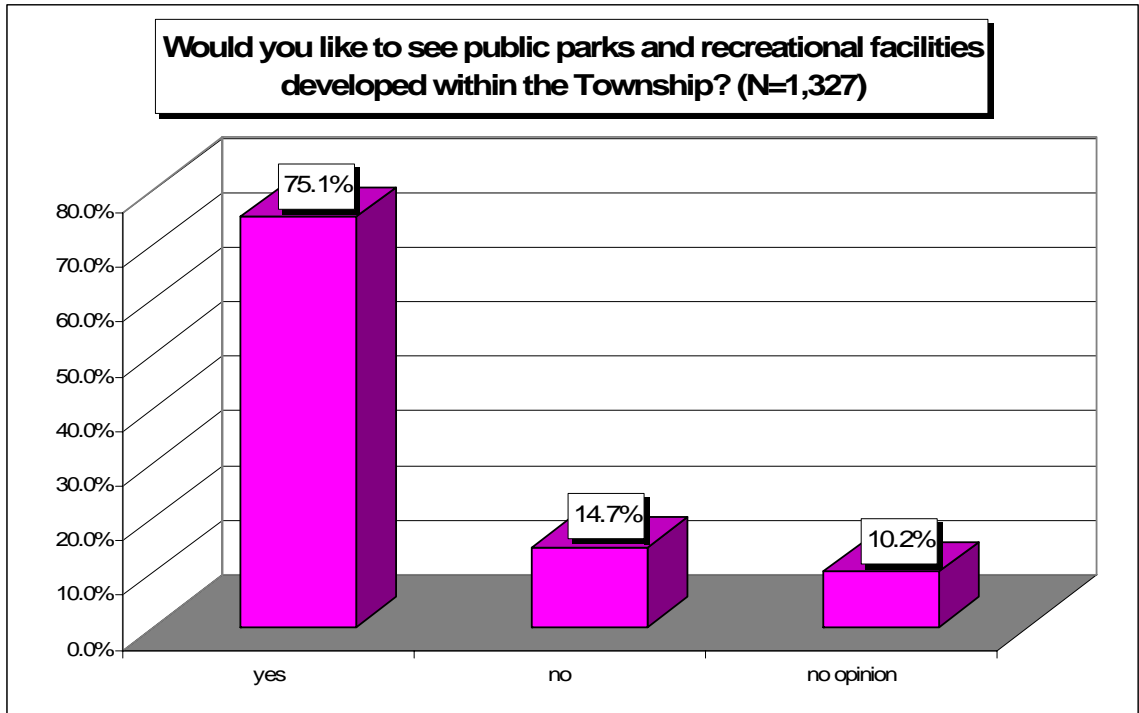


The final question in this section asked residents about their satisfaction levels with the enforcement of zoning codes in Ross Township. Over 50% of respondents indicated that they were either very satisfied (6.6%) or satisfied (46.8%) with zoning code

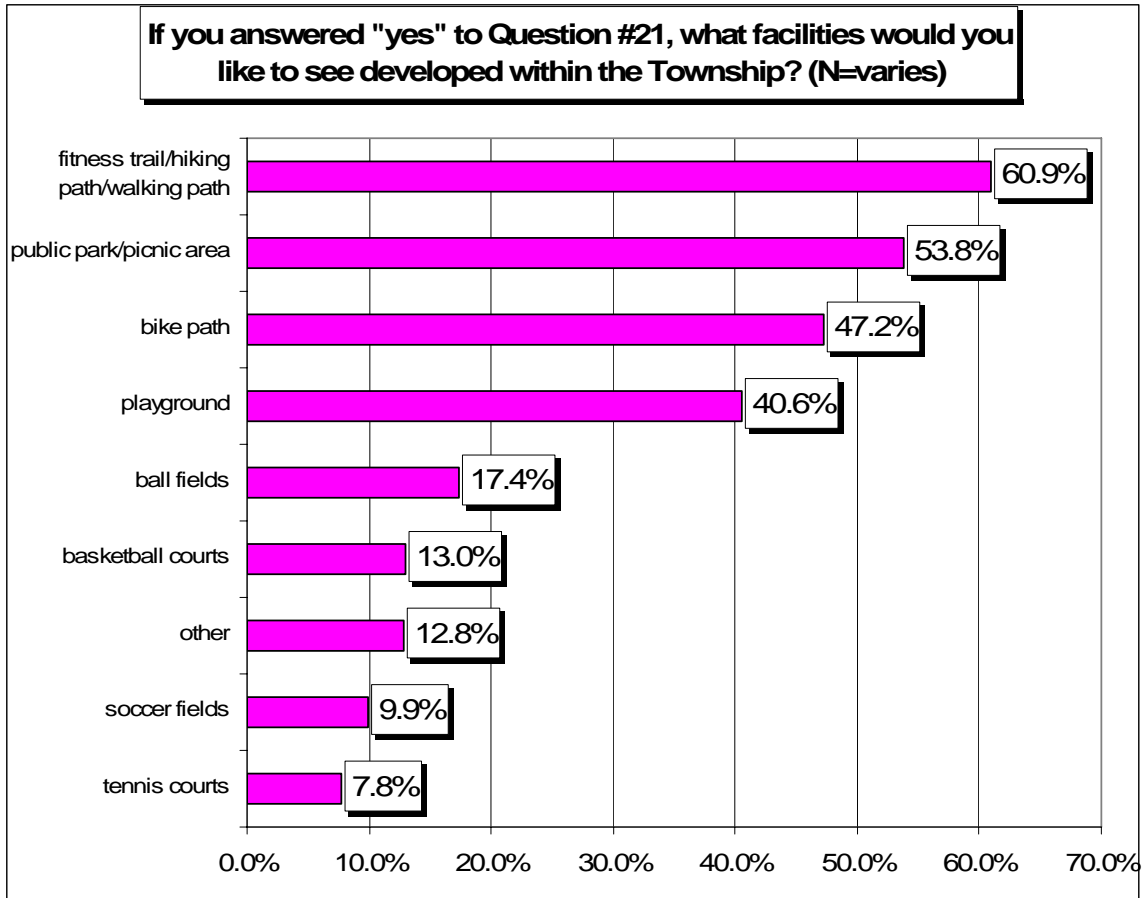
enforcement in the Township. Over 20% of respondents expressed no opinion on the issue (22.5%).



PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES: Township residents were asked to indicate their preferences towards the development of public parks and recreational facilities and the types of facilities they would prefer if facilities were to be developed within the Township. An overwhelming majority of respondents (75.1%) indicated an interest in developing public parks and recreational facilities within Ross Township.



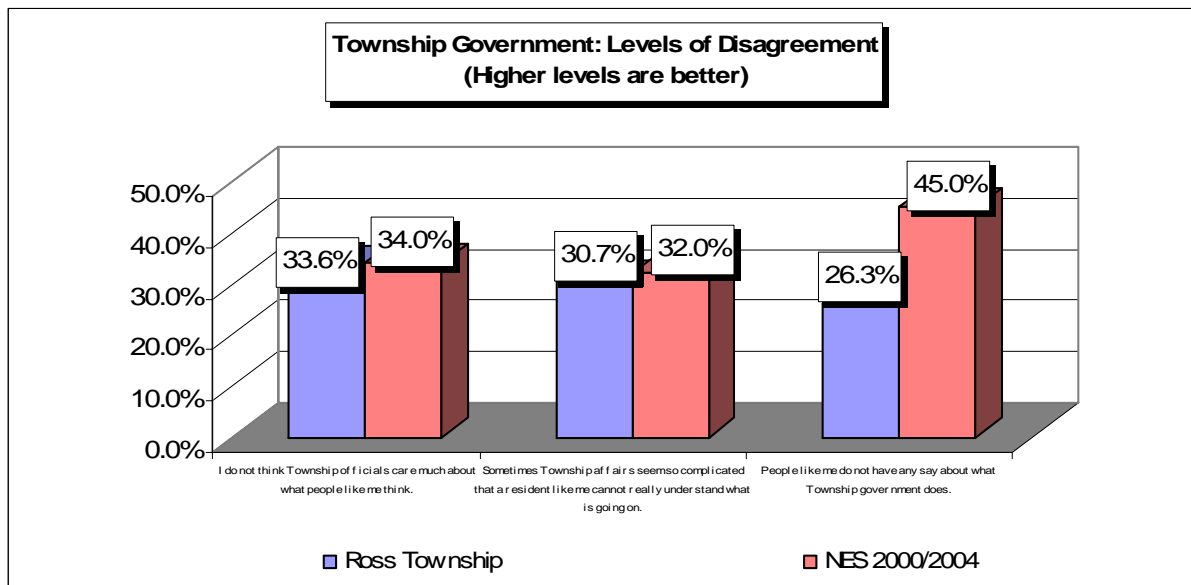
Fitness trail/hiking path/walking path, public park/picnic area, bike path, and playground were the four most frequent selections by respondents who favored the development of public parks and recreational facilities within the Township. Each of these four selections was selected by more than 40% of respondents.



TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT: In addition to collecting attitudes and opinions regarding public services provided by the Township, the survey also sought to collect information regarding residents' views toward Township government. Using a set of questions that have been used in other surveys in other communities, we can compare the attitudes of Ross Township residents with individuals nationally. Based upon the 2004 results of The American National Election Studies², we can compare Ross Township survey results with the national results. Higher levels of disagreement with this set of

² The American National Election Studies (www.electionstudies.org). *The ANES Guide To Public Opinion And Electoral Behavior*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, Center for Political Studies [producer and distributor], 2004. These materials are based on work supported by the National Science Foundation and a number of other sponsors. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in these materials are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funding organizations.

questions indicate that residents have positive feelings towards their ability to understand and influence the political process. Ross Township survey respondents are below the national average on all three of the comparative measures. We do urge caution in the interpretation and use of these results as many factors can and do influence individual responses to questions of this nature. With less than three out of ten respondents disagreeing with the statement, “People like me do not have any say in what Township government does,” this may provide the Township with an opportunity to reach out and improve communications to change this negative perception. Also, 30.7% of respondents disagreed with the statement that “Sometimes Township affairs seem so complicated that a resident like me cannot really understand what is going on.” This level of disagreement would seem to indicate that there are some residents that find Township affairs complicated.

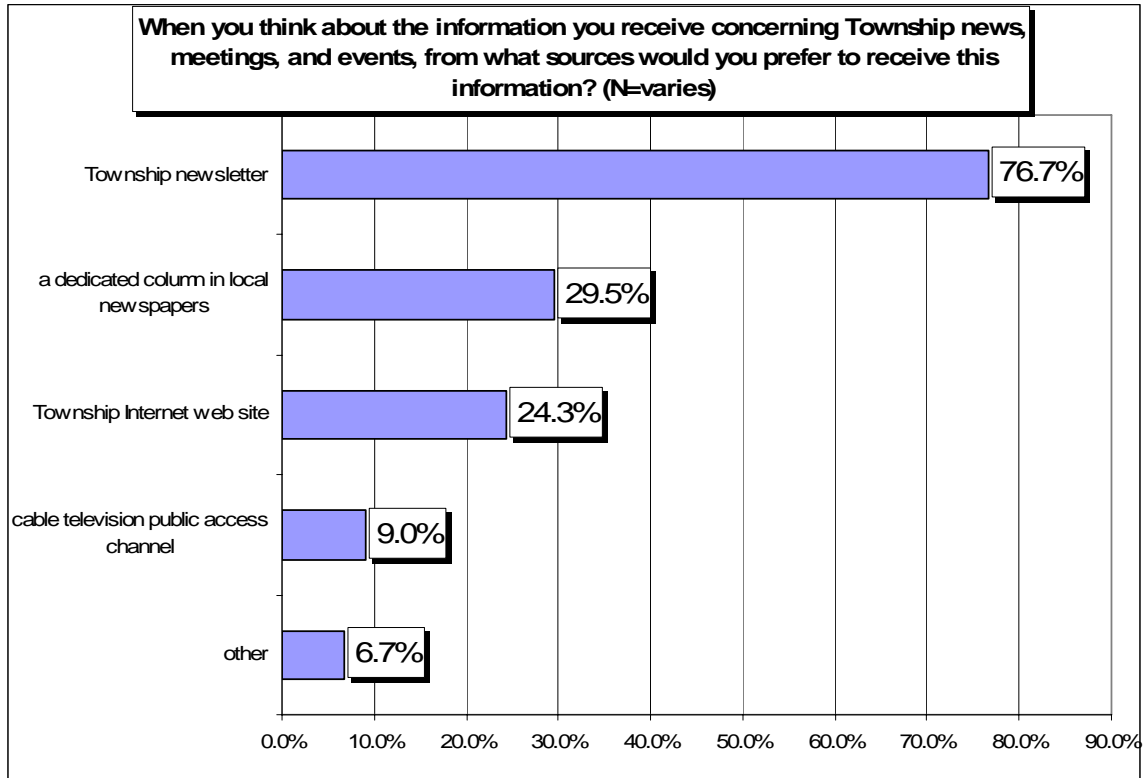


TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION: Another set of questions was designed so that residents could consider issues pertaining to Ross Township Trustee meetings and the Township’s communication efforts with residents. The first question asked residents to

indicate how many Township Trustee meetings they have attended in the past two years. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (72.9%) have not attended a meeting in that timeframe. Just over twenty percent (22.0%) of respondents have attended 1-3 meetings in the past two years, while the remaining 5.1% of respondents have attended 4 or more meetings in that timeframe.

At the time of the survey, Ross Township had recently developed an official Township web site. A second question in this section asked respondents to indicate how many times they had visited the official Ross Township Internet web site at <http://www.rosstwp.org> in the past month. An overwhelming majority of respondents (85.8%) had not visited the web site in the past month. 11.9% of respondents had visited the web site 1-3 times in the past month, while only 2.3% of respondents had visited the web site 4 or more times in that timeframe.

The third and final question in this section asked from what sources respondents would prefer to receive information concerning Township news, meetings, and events. The most frequently cited choice (76.7%) for a source of information was a Township newsletter. This may be taken as a signal that the Township should consider producing a periodic newsletter for Township residents. 29.5% of respondents would prefer to receive information about the Township from a dedicated column in local newspapers. Another 24.3% would like to see the Township Internet web site as a source of information concerning Township news, meeting, and events.



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Respondents were provided with the opportunity at the end of the survey to make additional comments. A sampling of the Additional Comments is shown below.

- *I cannot imagine living in another community and feeling this comfortable and happy. I love the support of the schools, family, and friends who live here. Someone is always there when you need help.*
- *I love living in Ross. The schools are great. Fire and medical services are top notch. However, police protection is limited because not enough officers are employed full time. Ross has expanded in population and the police department has not. The cars they drive are old and not in good running status. Patrol is limited at night because of not enough officers. Crime will go up when the population increases. More officers are needed to maintain a safe environment.*
- *I think it's fantastic that the township thinks enough and cares enough to seek feedback from residents by commissioning this survey. We moved here for the schools and rural feel. We'll stay because you care.*

- *I think it's wonderful someone took the time to come up with this survey to find out how residents feel about the area. I hope it brings improvement or at least more community involvement.*
- *I think Ross Twp. has the potential for development and I hope that it is well thought out and we grow slowly. I moved here because of the excellent schools. My family plans to reside here until our children are out of school. It is a great community!*
- *I would like more info about what goes on in Ross. I feel there is no communication from elected officials because we are so small of a community. I would like to feel more informed on growth in Ross. The Venice Cornerstone can only do so much.*
- *I would like to be more involved with the decisions that Ross Township makes. I would like to be mailed a newsletter with a calendar of events and the issues that will affect my neighborhood and my investment.*
- *I would most of all like 24 hour EMS, Fire, and police services. I would also like more parks and public areas. I think we need a strong tax base to keep residential taxes to a minimum.*
- *Thank you for conducting this survey. Hopefully some good will come of this. I plan on becoming more aware of when these township meetings are held and will participate. I also plan to visit the Ross Township website frequently.*
- *I was not aware, until this survey, that Ross Township had a website. Great source of information; however, a township newsletter is also essential since so many do not have Internet access. Growth is inevitable; however, please keep Ross Township the safe, quiet, rural community we love! Keep out multi-family apartment complexes. Let's provide housing for our aging residents so they may continue to enjoy Ross Township in their golden years.*

CONCLUSION

Over half of those households who received a Ross Township Community Survey chose to participate and returned a completed survey. This is a positive indication of the high degree of public interest within the Township. In general, respondents indicated a fairly high degree of satisfaction with the public services provided to residents of Ross Township. This overall satisfaction is reflected in the large number of respondents who

indicated their expectation to remain in the Township for the next five years. Respondents indicated an interest in additional public services such as developing public parks and recreational facilities and the publication of a Township newsletter.

This community survey provides a baseline set of data that may be useful in addressing both the current and future needs of Ross Township. The Center for Public Management and Regional Affairs recommends the Township conduct a similar community survey in three to five years to better assess both change and progress in the Township over time.