

Public Survey Results

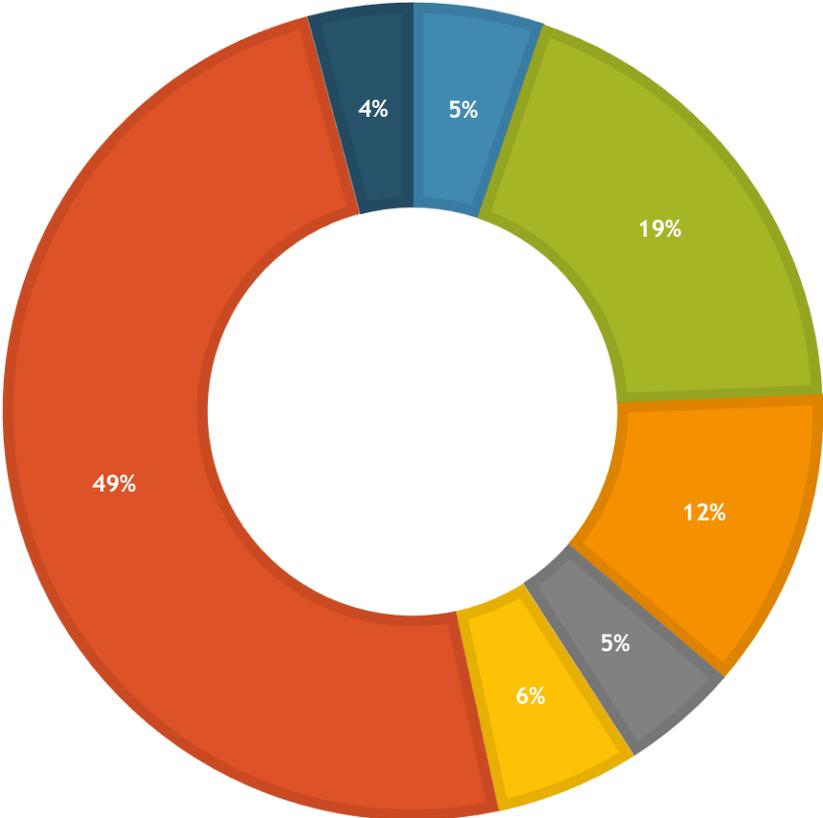
End of 2021

Survey Background

- ▶ The survey questions were created by Eatonton Main Street.
- ▶ The survey responses will assist the Eatonton Main Street Advisory Board in setting their priorities for 2022.
- ▶ The survey was distributed to the public via email and social media from December 6, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
- ▶ 196 responses were received during this time period.
 - ▶ 119 responses were received in the previous year.

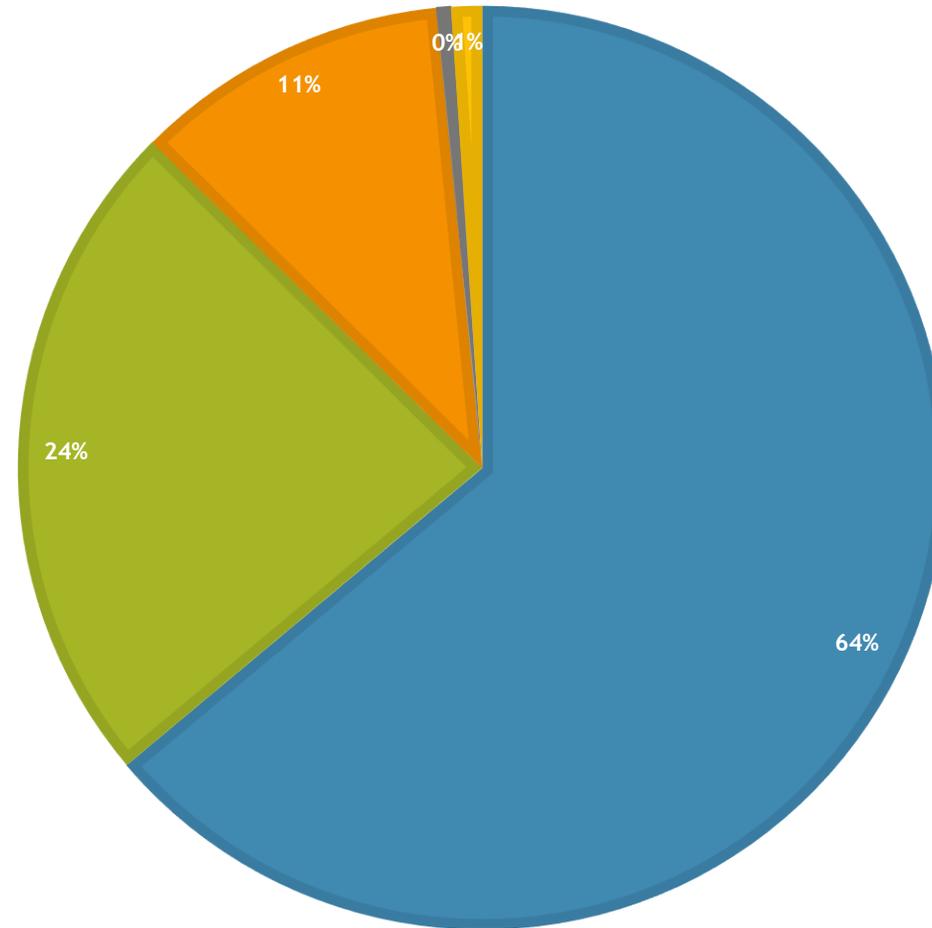
HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN EATONTON/PUTNAM COUNTY?

■ Less than 1 year ■ 1-4 years ■ 5-9 years ■ 10-14 years ■ 15-19 years ■ 20+ years ■ I don't live in Eatonton/Putnam County.



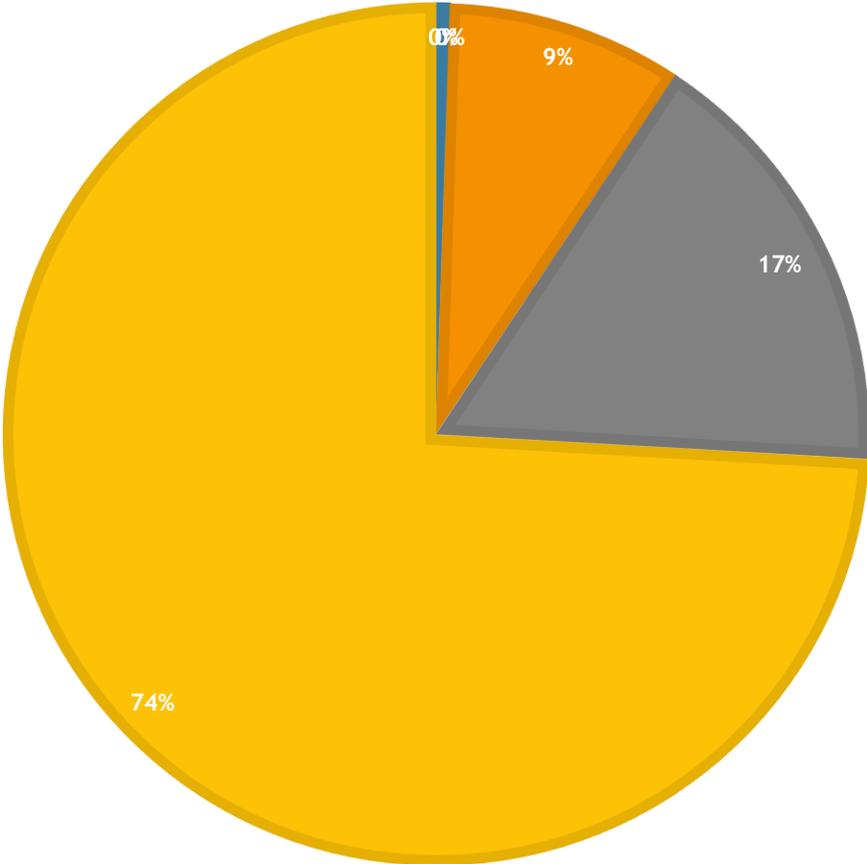
THERE ARE TOO MANY EVENTS IN DOWNTOWN EATONTON.

■ 1 (Strongly Disagree) ■ 2 (Disagree) ■ 3 (Neutral) ■ 4 (Agree) ■ 5 (Strongly Agree)



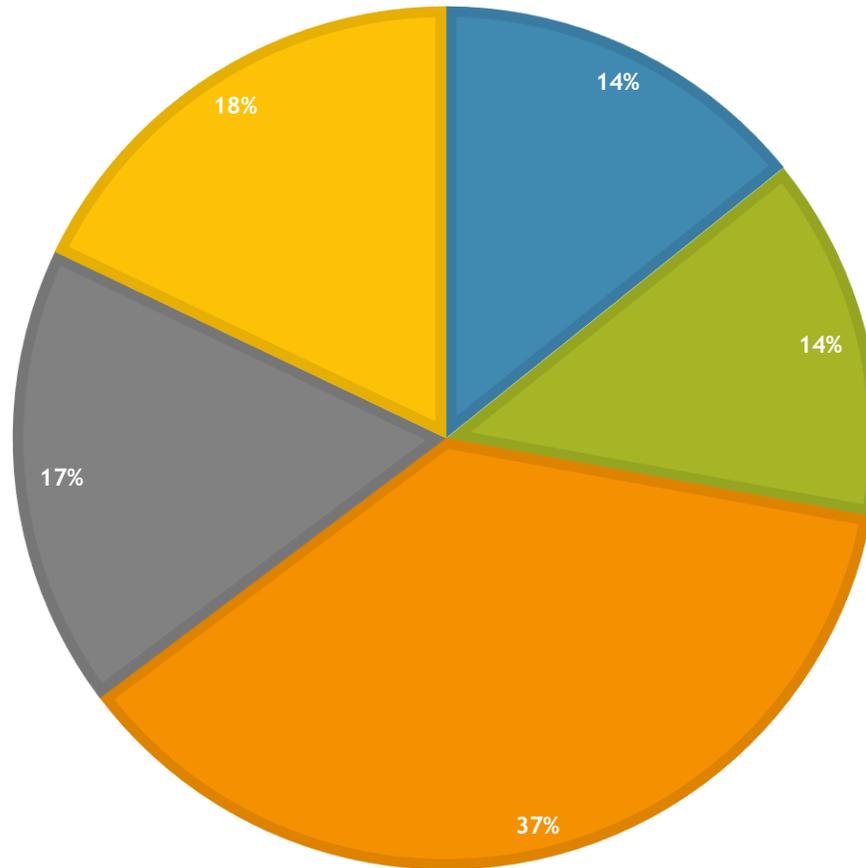
THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE VARIETY OF BUSINESSES IN DOWNTOWN EATONTON.

■ 1 (Strongly Disagree) ■ 2 (Disagree) ■ 3 (Neutral) ■ 4 (Agree) ■ 5 (Strongly Agree)



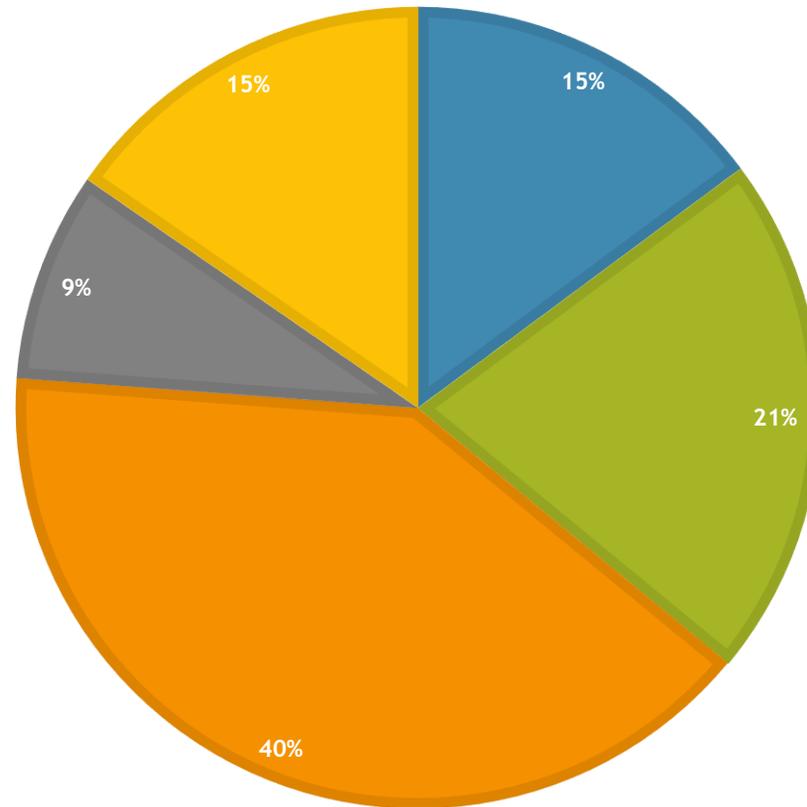
I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE MAIN STREET PROGRAM IS ABOUT, AND I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IT.

■ 1 (Strongly Disagree) ■ 2 (Disagree) ■ 3 (Neutral) ■ 4 (Agree) ■ 5 (Strongly Agree)



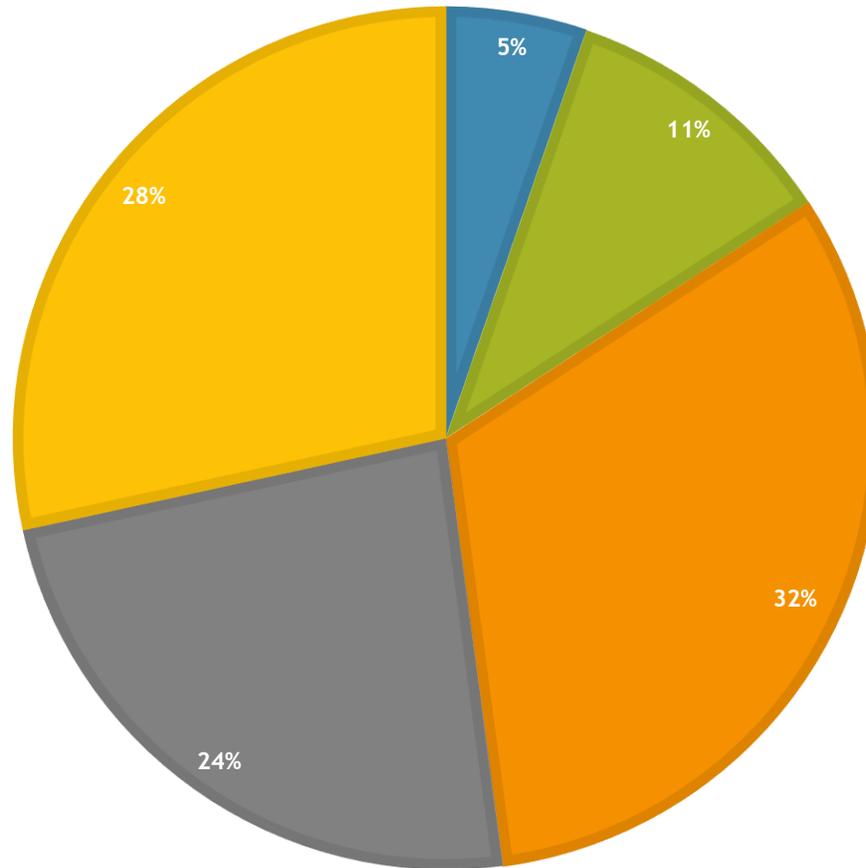
I WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEER WITH EATONTON MAIN STREET AT EVENTS OR ON DOWNTOWN RELATED PROJECTS.

■ 1 (Strongly Disagree) ■ 2 (Disagree) ■ 3 (Neutral) ■ 4 (Agree) ■ 5 (Strongly Agree)



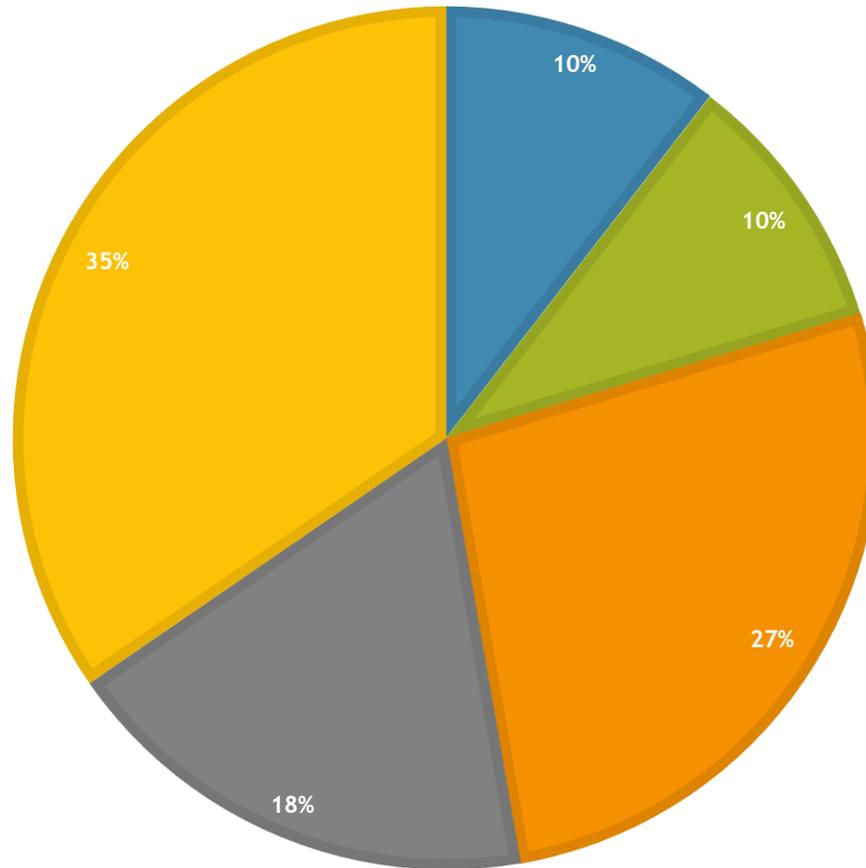
EATONTON MAIN STREET DOES A GREAT JOB OF KEEPING ME INFORMED OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN DOWNTOWN EATONTON.

■ 1 (Strongly Disagree) ■ 2 (Disagree) ■ 3 (Neutral) ■ 4 (Agree) ■ 5 (Strongly Agree)



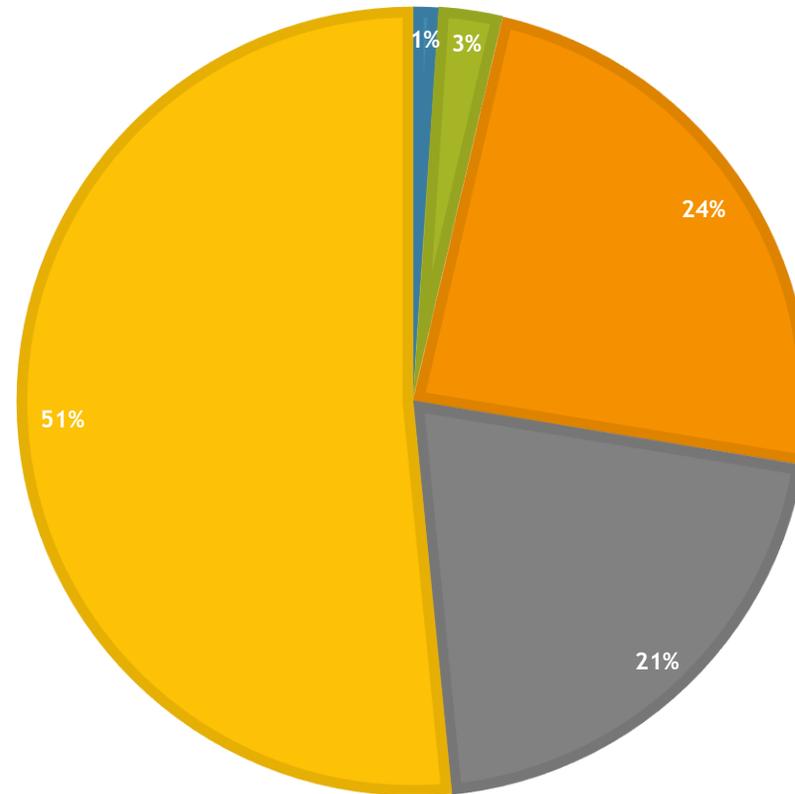
THE WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTERS HELP ME STAY INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S GOING IN DOWNTOWN EATONTON.

■ 1 (Strongly Disagree) ■ 2 (Disagree) ■ 3 (Neutral) ■ 4 (Agree) ■ 5 (Strongly Agree)



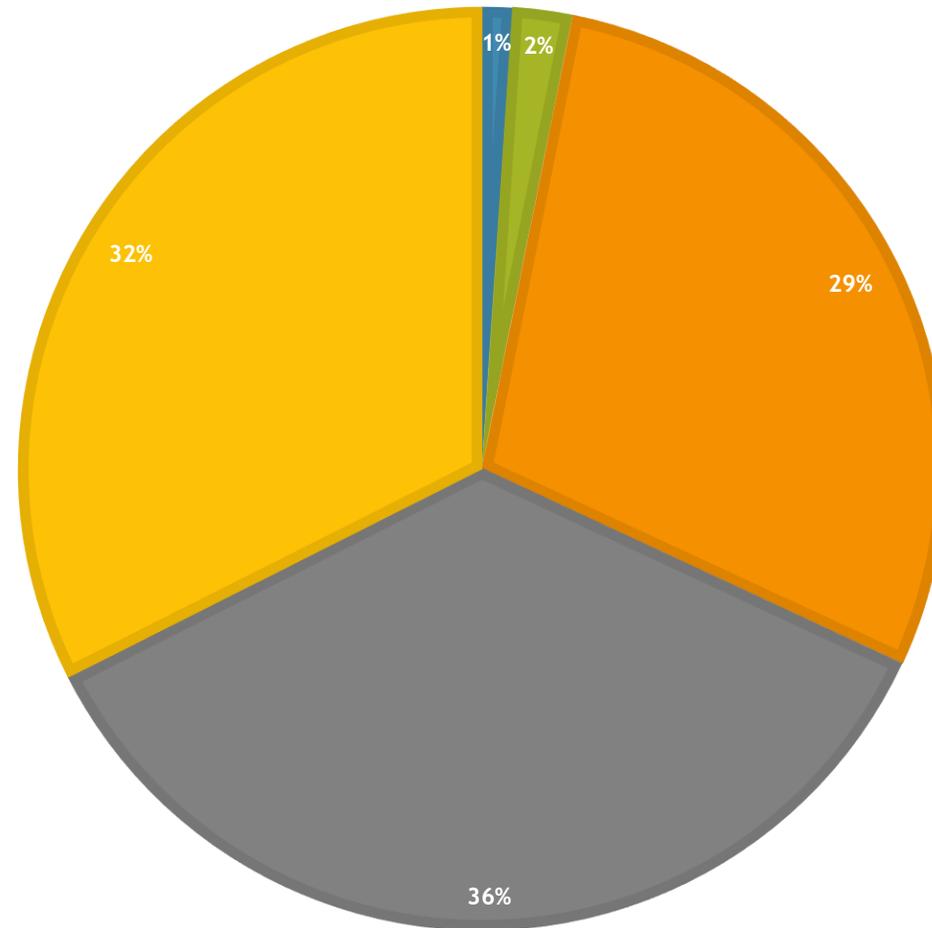
EATONTON MAIN STREET SHOULD INVEST MORE MONEY INTO MAKING DOWNTOWN EATONTON MORE AESTHETICALLY PLEASING (I.E. REGULARLY PRESSURE WASHING SIDEWALKS, MORE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DURING CHRISTMAS, MORE FLOWERS IN THE SPRING, ETC.).

■ 1 (Strongly Disagree) ■ 2 (Disagree) ■ 3 (Neutral) ■ 4 (Agree) ■ 5 (Strongly Agree)



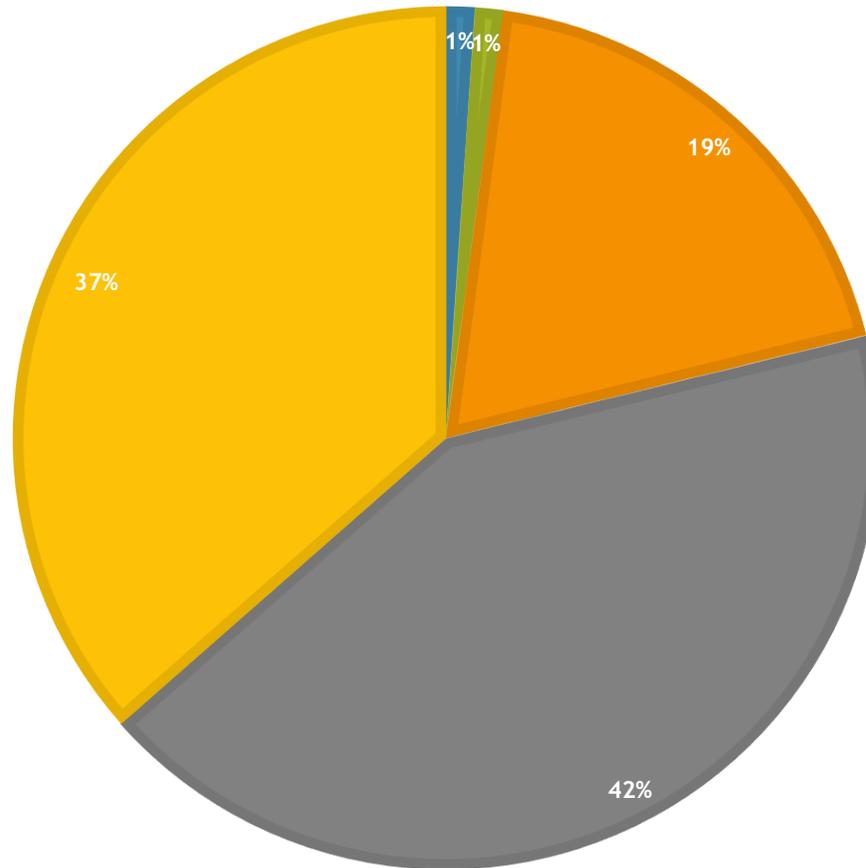
THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES HAVE GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE.

■ 1 (Strongly Disagree) ■ 2 (Disagree) ■ 3 (Neutral) ■ 4 (Agree) ■ 5 (Strongly Agree)

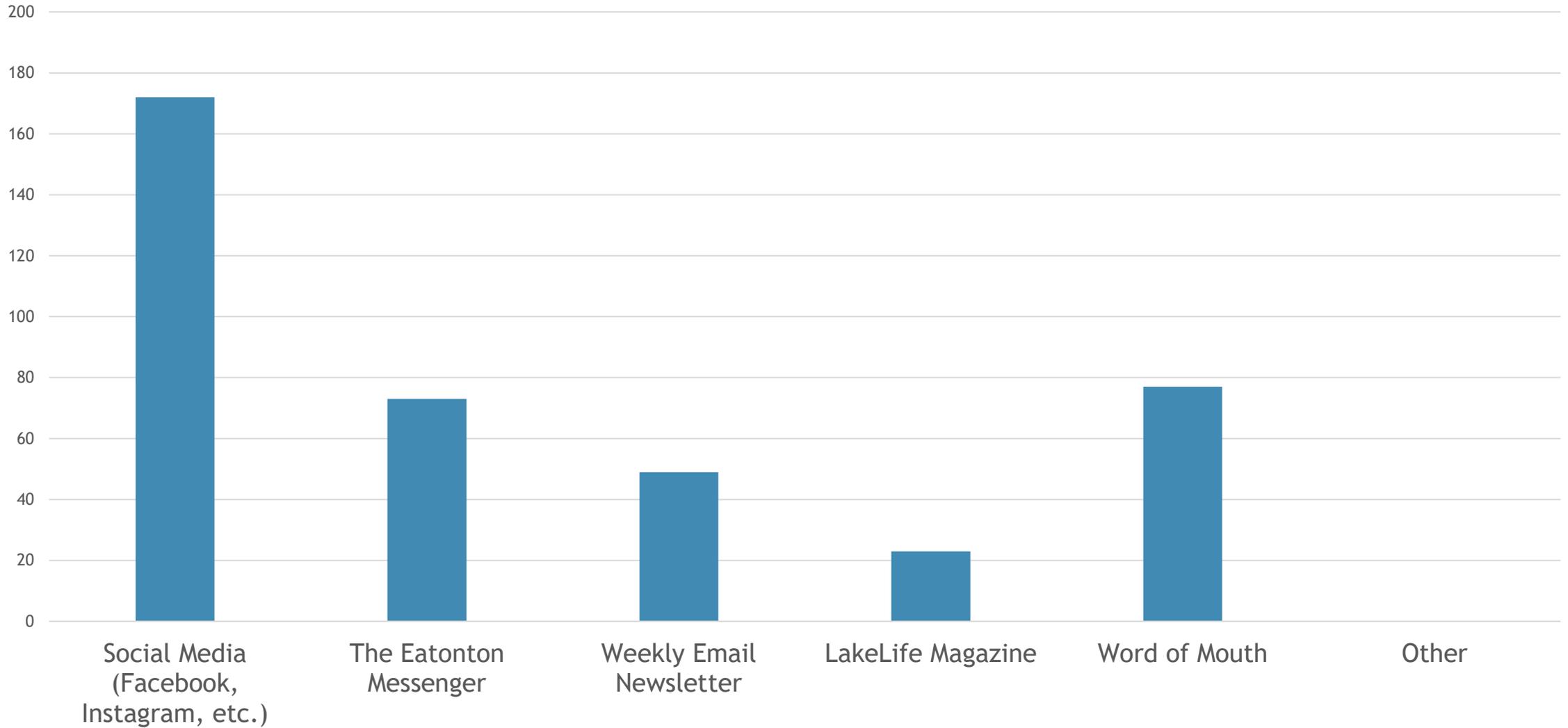


I HAVE A GREAT OVERALL EXPERIENCE WHEN I PATRONIZE A BUSINESS IN DOWNTOWN EATONTON.

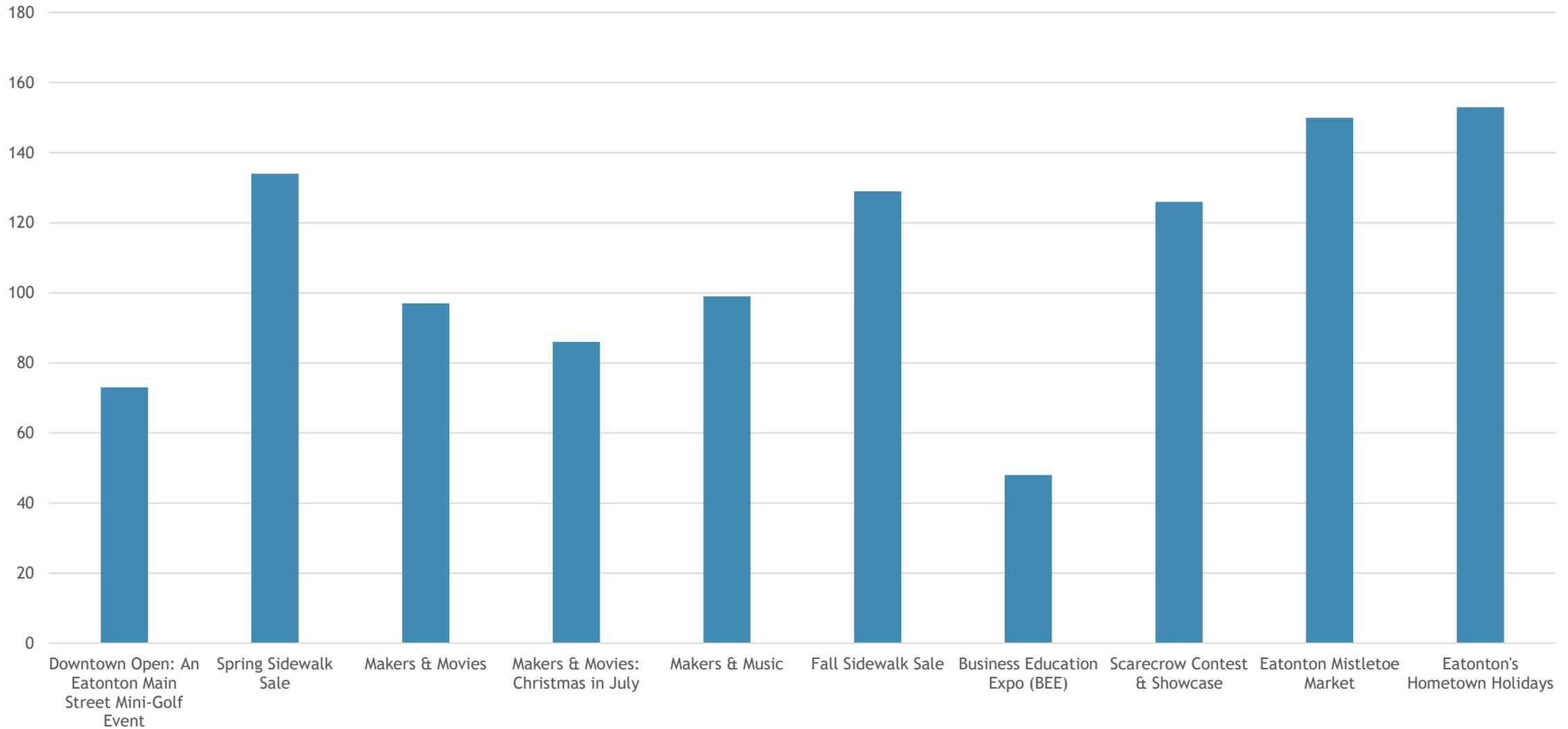
■ 1 (Strongly Disagree) ■ 2 (Disagree) ■ 3 (Neutral) ■ 4 (Agree) ■ 5 (Strongly Agree)



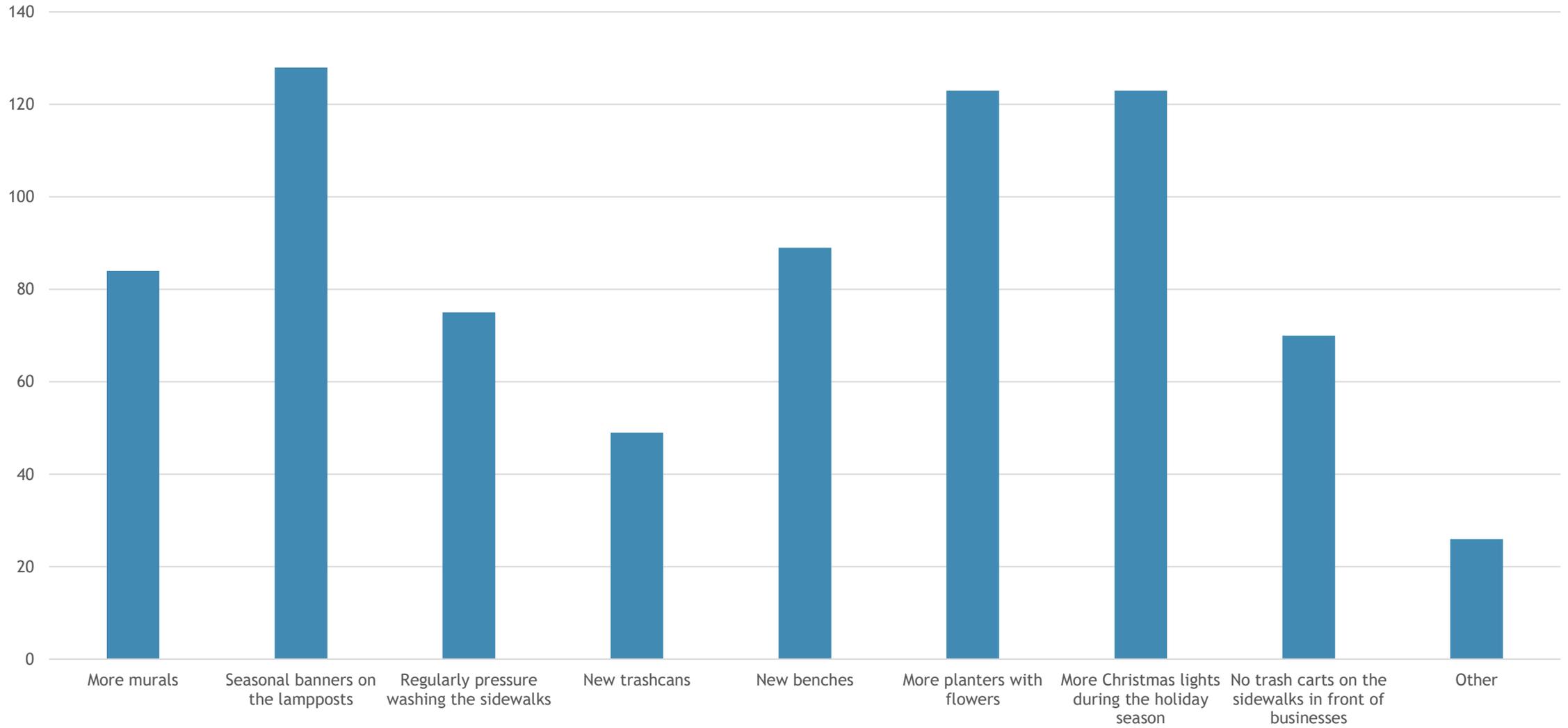
How do you learn about what's going on in Downtown Eatonton?



Which Main Street sponsored events would you to see like to take place in 2022?



What would make Downtown Eatonton visually more appealing?



What would make downtown visually more appealing?

“Other” Responses

- ▶ Take down the Confederate monument
- ▶ More stores and restaurants
- ▶ All storefront windows decorated, even empty ones. A variety of quaint shopping, that’s what will bring people on our sidewalks, not a nail shop. More incentives to open a business in the downtown community.
- ▶ Leave white lights on the buildings and sidewalk trees all year long to make our town more cozy and inviting (like Covington).
- ▶ A Christmas Tree that has more street appeal, better street conditions, fix the sidewalk where the big trucks turn right next to peoples bank. Possibly either widen that or make it a different route for the big trucks. Cleaning up the Golden Pantry
- ▶ fixing up the Sumter St corridor, getting building owners to keep up with maintenance, getting rid of/replacing "gateway entrance" crap - the signs hanging from fence is awful
- ▶ Fix up uncle Remus Park to sit and eat also a small play ground for kids if it's just a seesaw or a sand box.

What would make downtown visually more appealing?

“Other” Responses continued

- ▶ Re-paint painted facades like Mexican restaurant and others . Encourage city to create guidelines for downtown buildings so we don't lose our historic charm. Why should I invest money in a bulldog if my next door neighbor doesn't.
- ▶ I live in what I am told the second oldest neighborhood in Eatonton. Christmas lights up Magnolia Street would be wonderful. 4 x 6 flags by the sidewalks on Patriotic holidays coming from all directions into town. I can only imagine how lovely it
- ▶ COMPLETE THE HORRENDOUS SIDEWALK PROJECT
- ▶ Keep the Christmas lights year round. Remove the benches- sadly they're mostly used for smoking. Address the upkeep of the buildings and shop signage and placement of shop sandwich boards. Picnic tables on the courthouse lawn for lunches.
- ▶ Perhaps when business buildings are empty they could do some "window dressing" so they dont look so sad and dilapidated.
- ▶ Keeping the Christmas lights up all year!
- ▶ More restaurants

What would make downtown visually more appealing?

“Other” Responses continued

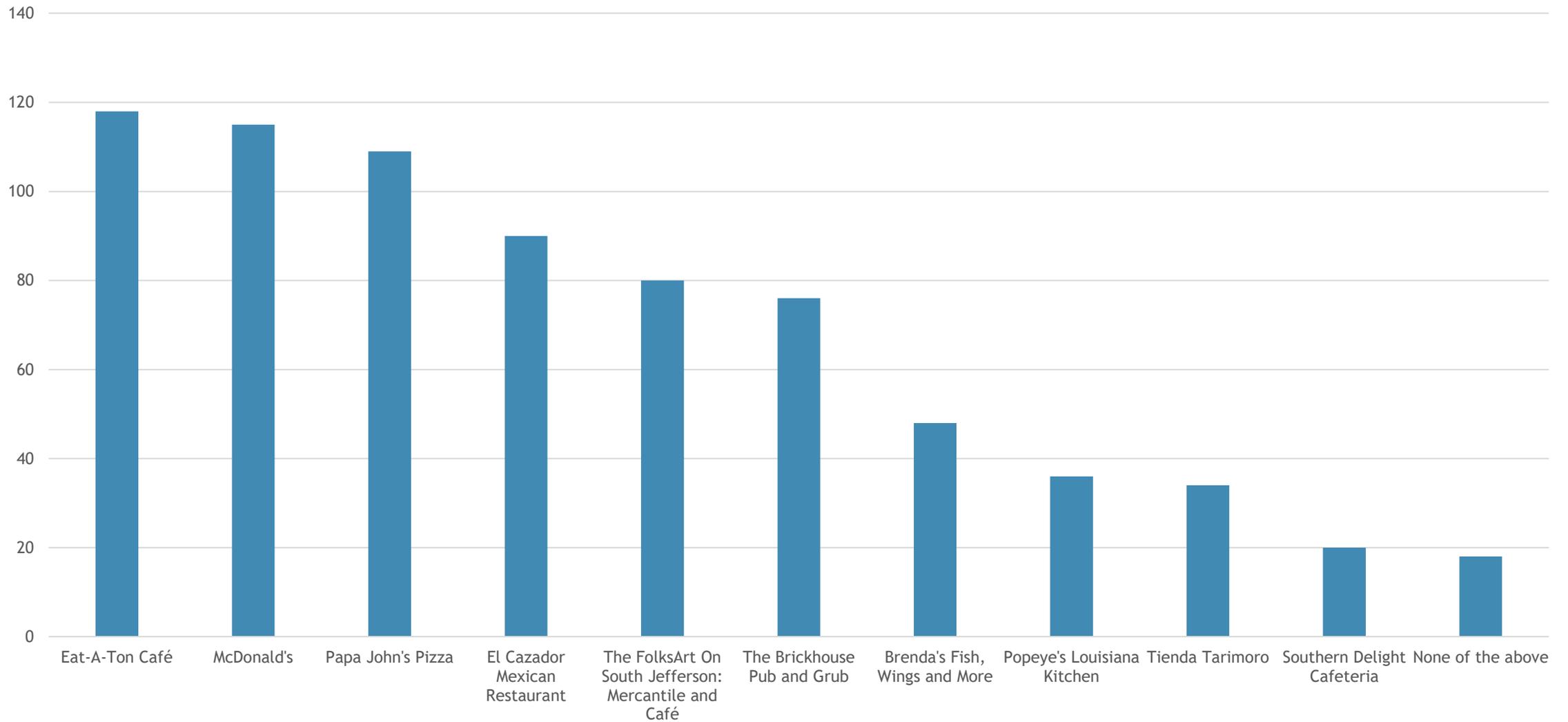
- ▶ Replace it repair the historical markers.
- ▶ More lighting at night!
- ▶ Our downtown is colorless everything is in the tan family I feel like downtown needs more of a splash of color like the building that used to be Pablo's businesses not only in the immediate downtown but in the whole town needs to clean up
- ▶ Some of the outlying businesses need to clean up. The buildings are run down. Popeyes building and the shopping strips take away from the overall look of main street.
- ▶ Lights all year. Sidewalks and walkways cleaned up and painted. Curb sides fixed and painted especially down by McDonald's area. Piped in music. Farmers market on weekends.
- ▶ Nicer Welcome to Eatonton signage.
- ▶ More businesses. New restaurant's. New attractions
- ▶ Pet waste disposal spots

What would make downtown visually more appealing?

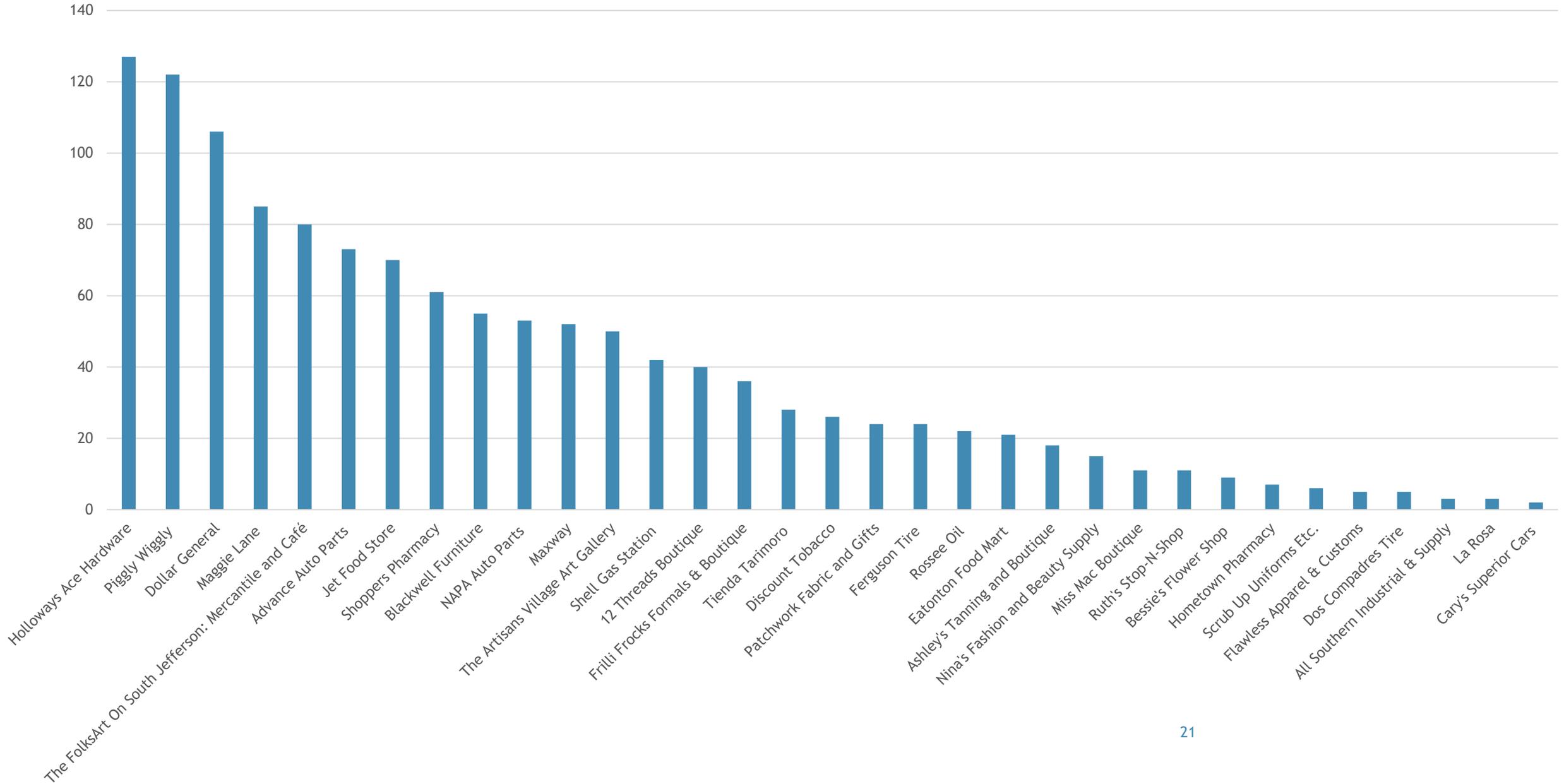
“Other” Responses continued

- ▶ Fix the rundown businesses and put in nice boutiques, antique store, perhaps horse and carriage historical tours on weekends. The Christmas event in July would have been better around the courthouse with more visibility, have a s'more station etc...
- ▶ I'd like the lights on top of buildings to stay up year round. Other towns stay up. And it makes it brighter and inviting
- ▶ The roads and entrances into the downtown area is terrible. The underbrush and abandoned buildings make a terrible first impression and leave much to be desired. Perhaps EMS should focus on urban planning and downtown development.
- ▶ Audio system playing Christmas music during the holidays or even year round as an attraction for strolling downtown and shopping.

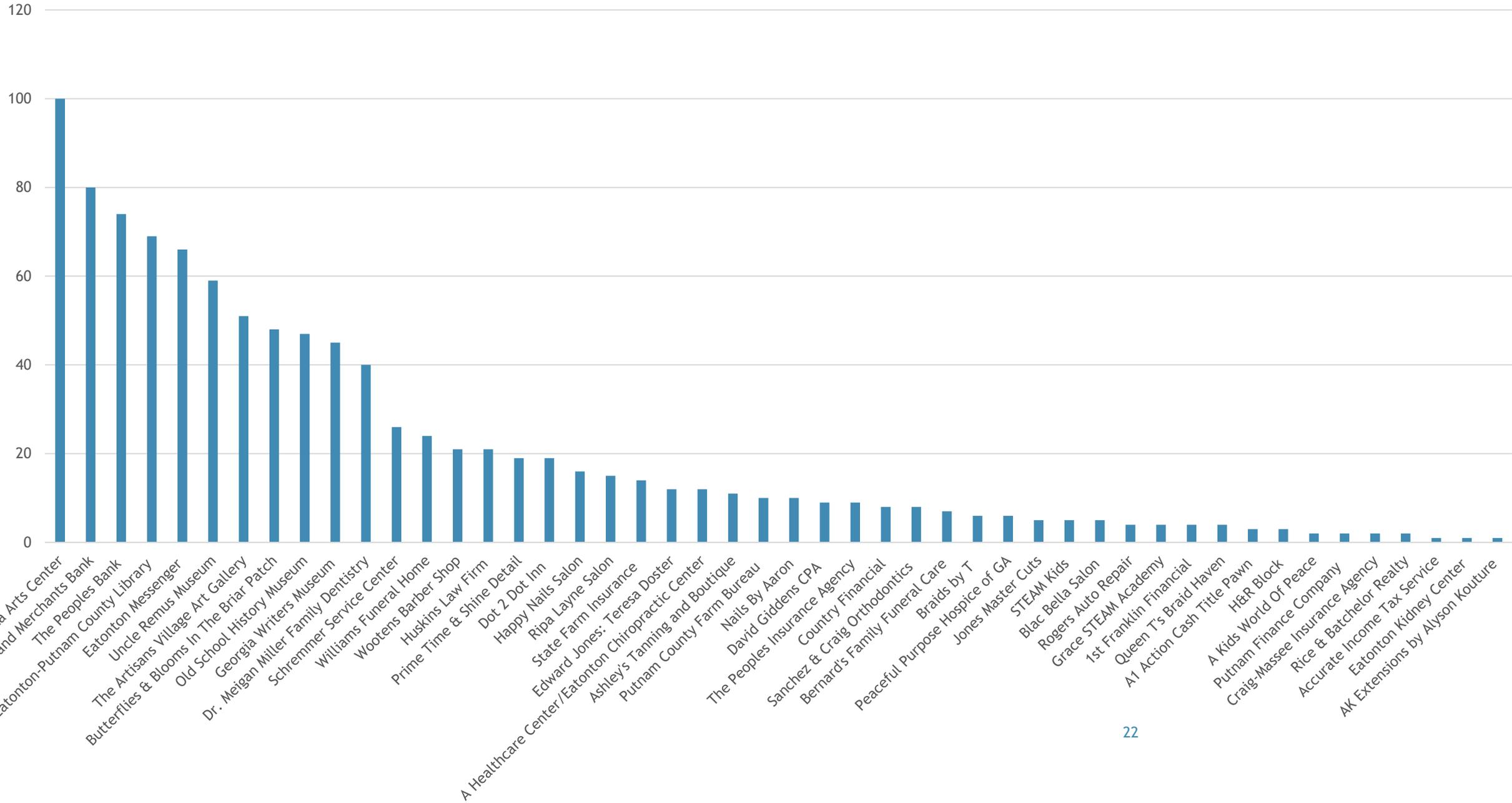
Which of the following RESTAURANTS did you patronize in 2021?



Which of the following STORES did you patronize in 2021?



Which of the following BUSINESSES did you patronize in 2021?



Additional Comments



- ▶ Appreciative of efforts to improve the area
- ▶ Now that I know there's an email updating what's going on in Eatonton, I'll sign up! I did go in to some of the businesses on the list but I didn't buy anything so I didn't check them. I do love Eatonton and wish there were more retail shops and more restaurants. I'm in the gallery, the library and Folks very frequently and would like to add more stops when I'm downtown. Keep up the good work!
- ▶ Great job
- ▶ The Mainstreet Advisory Board should allow business/property owners to be members of the Advisory Board even if they don't live in Eatonton City limits. There wouldn't be a business district without these individuals taking a risk and investing their money. Banning them from participating and having a voice is discriminatory.
- ▶ Thanks for the positive direction the town is moving in.
- ▶ The mistletoe market was phenomenal! I would love to see a tree lighting with caroling etc. the scarecrows brought so many people to the downtown area. It would be great if the local businesses could capitalize on that.
- ▶ We need more businesses and restaurants downtown. Also need things open on the weekends and after 5:30 when people are off work. I would love to support local businesses, but hard when they are all closed.
- ▶ Leave lights up year round

- ▶ Courthouse is awesome and staff are friendly and helpful. I participated in Plein Air Event and it was delightful in the Butterfly Garden.
- ▶ It is ridiculous to take 2 years to complete a sidewalk project. Could you even imagine that happening in Madison, Ga? We definitely need some more eating places!
- ▶ It would be great if the parade could be held at night or closer to dark so the floats could have lights. A nice Christmas tree in town would be great too!
- ▶ I wish we had a playground! We live in walking/biking distance to Downtown and my two kids under 10 would love somewhere to safely climb, play, and maybe meet other families. A coffeeshop would be another great addition to Downtown (non Main Street related, but rent prices seem so high for a new startup biz to even consider moving in).
- ▶ Are you aware that there are seasonal banners for downtown? They were purchased by a previous Mainstreet group. The city manager would know about them. It's a shame they are no longer used as they weren't cheap and we got a lot of compliments on them. One thing that wasn't followed up on were requests for lawn flags in the same style. Could be a way for Mainstreet to make some money. Loved the Mistletoe Market; perfect time for people to start thinking about Christmas.
- ▶ I have recently moved here and would like to see the downtown area more appealing.

- ▶ Eatonton has some vacant buildings that would be awesome if it could be used as some form of place to entertain kids. Ex. Sky zone, bowling alley, Dave and buster, Pinstripes. Let's try to keep the money in Putnam versus letting the money leave Putnam.
- ▶ If Eatonton is to survive, businesses need to be brought in to the downtown, city limits. The powers to be need to stop sending everything to Lake Oconee. Looks like Eatonton lost the Duncan Doughnuts. Clothing stores should be more willing to accommodate people of all sizes, not just thin or petite. Building owners should be required to repair the downtown buildings, not just the fronts. Getting the apex Movie Theater operating again, maybe showing Classic Hollywood films would be great
- ▶ I have food sensitivities so I appreciate restaurants that can accommodate gluten free and grain free. I usually have to get a salad and bring my own dressing and toppings. There are very few places I can eat out. Thank you for asking. Some businesses I'd patronize frequently would be a coffee shop, and a high quality olive oil/cooking shop. I do appreciate all that Main Street does for our community. I hope we win the stihl contest and can get the new benches.
- ▶ Bring bear rabbit back city of eatonton need to vote for people that is going to help eatonton and not people that is in there that want it run in the ground like the mayor and his wife who is racist

- ▶ We would love to see more lights and seasonal decor, the parade was awesome but having a big tree lighting with Santa at the end would be great! More gatherings with ALL of the schools involved. Bigger festivals, more stores for younger crowds, a PARK with a playground! We have no where to take the kids if they want to swing or play. Clean up the bigger gas station, the parking lot I front of Maxway needs to be redone and so does CVS and Pizza Hut. Make the stores have more curb appeal. Thank u!
- ▶ so happy to have Lauren as the manager: she's done an excellent job of stepping things up downtown!
- ▶ Thank you for your hard work!
- ▶ Would love to see some music events downtown, spring or fall. Some towns have "Food Truck Friday" and families picnic after getting their food and listen to casual music.
- ▶ I really enjoyed the briar patch days in fall 2018. that is a great time of year to be downtown / outdoors!
- ▶  Love the LIGHTS all over town.....EATONTON IS REALLY BEAUTIFUL at NIGHT  The sidewalk IS BEAUTIFUL it about to Take shape it going to be BEAUTIFUL ALSO!!!!!!
- ▶ Make it more like Madison ! Have a farmers market . More dining options (outside dining)

- ▶ You are doing a great job keeping us informed about our town. Keep up the great work and we hope to make Eatonton a ACE where kids are loved and having fun and more business will open in 2022. BUILDING A TOWN FILLED WILL LOVE ALL FOR OUR KIDS. THANKS FPR THINKING OF THE KIDS AND NOT THE ASULTS. KIDS ARE THE FUTURE! 😊😊😊😊😊
- ▶ I would like to see Eatonton downtown look more inviting,interesting., More around the courthouse : events.. free stories, plen arie ,flags flowers , pop up booths,... Finally get the sidewalks fixed! Possibly Food trucks, more benches. more advertising of events coming into Eatonton on 441, 41 ... use the electric sign by 129/ 441!for local announcements .
- ▶ I didn't see Tangles included on the business list.
- ▶ Downtown is a joke! The sidewalk fiasco is a eyesore and has continued for months. No mention of the Plaza, which is a tremendous asset to the community. Tastee chick is probably the best place for lunch, but no mention of it. Popeyes is a eyesore for people passing through. Only thing that brings me to downtown is business at the courthouse and functions at the plaza.
- ▶ Just would like to see the potential there realized. Many steps have been made in the right direction but there's still a long way to go.
- ▶ I love this town!

- ▶ I love the lights for Christmas. I would like to see them stay up yr round. I would also like to see a new Christmas tree planted on the court lawn. That tree now looks awful. It is shaggy and has huge hole in the front not to mention the silver and gold ornaments on it. Imo I think it would look better with colored lights and traditional Christmas colors for ornaments.
- ▶ Please consider keeping the lights up around the buildings downtown, it makes the town just glow. More flowers and banners near light post or corners would be nice. Add a covered bench area near the Popeyes/maxway area for those that walk around town. More murals, even on the sidewalks would be nice.
- ▶ Every time that I have family or friends with me, they always want to go to downtown Madison. It has so much character and when you go there we feel like we are going back into the past. Even when we don't need anything, we are always drawn into the stores and buy something. Don't get me wrong, I love Eatonton, but we love looking around and shopping in downtown Madison. We love their storefronts.
- ▶ brer rabbit paintings on water towers
- ▶ Arts festival. Family activities
- ▶ Would like to see the downtown area revitalized to draw more patrons. We need more gift shops, restaurants with outdoor dining or rooftop dining. Music would be a good draw for participation of patrons.

- ▶ I'd like to eat local for dinner. Even if it's just to go. I'm tired of fast food. I'd spend more money if there were restaurants with more than bar food (chicken tenders, burgers etc)
- ▶ I understand two new restaurants/bars are coming to town This sounds great. Some live music would be a great addition. Something like you see in Savannah/Macon
- ▶ More parking! Outdoor restaurant sitting/ dine-in franchise restaurant, long horn;
- ▶ More authentic restaurants,
- ▶ It's a great place to take a stroll, you can't just walk ; you'll miss the ambiance
- ▶ I would like to see more restaurants opening that would bring people into the area most people I know go to to other cities to dine out.
- ▶ Would love to see more restaurants with a greater variety of food
- ▶ I think you guys are doing a great job. We just need more variety in businesses and work on cleanliness. 1 block off main street on 16 east is pretty scary and dirty
- ▶ I wish there was a coffee shop!!
- ▶ Doing a great job! Thank you for all you do for downtown!!

- ▶ I put together an Adventure Lab including places downtown. Adventure Labs are a branch of Geocaching. The app shows six locations. At each location you must answer a question. It is called Discover Eatonton. The locations are the Butterfly Garden, Pone Grove Cementary , the Reed- Green Home, Blackwell Furniture(Players must read the historic marker for answer), the courthouse square for the Joel Chandler Harris sculptures, and the Uncle Remus Museum. Some history is given at each location
- ▶ Would love to see more shops and restaurants downtown. Restaurants that are open for dinner. It asked about the sidewalk sale, I went to the fall one and there really was nothing there. Hope it can be brought back to life!
- ▶ A lot of the buildings need to have the exteriors refreshed and made to aesthetically flow with visual appeal. Eatonton downtown looks dirty and very run down in general
- ▶ High end dress shops
- ▶ I wish we could have businesses that didn't feel like they have to advertise a racial tone. I think we can live in this town together and shop together without making it a point of who owns a business. I miss the antique stores, and specialty shops.
- ▶ More support of the Uncle Remus Golf Course!
- ▶ Get more stores to open.

- ▶ The bathrooms at Turner Park need to be renovated. These are there for the Public and visitors to the Museum. It is in dire need of help!! Dirty, bare studs, not finished in. A disgrace to our City. It is supposed to be maintained by the City. Many years ago Mayor Marshall had these built. Wonderful addition to Turner Park, but they have seen better days.
- ▶ Excited to see the growth in downtown Eatonton, especially with the restoration of the Pex Theater! Keep up the great work!
- ▶ More of a splash of color better maintained businesses such as the car repair businesses uninhabitable homes removed, more businesses a great example would be City of Monroe More lights strung across the streets Aesthetic is very important new signage coming into the city Accentuate the rich history and the trash removed in residential areaa, a nice park with pavilion people can rent for occasions
- ▶ There is not enough promotion or communication about what is available in Eatonton. There is not enough reach out to make connection to customers and draw them out.
- ▶ Keep the Christmas lights up. More variety of options of services downtown.
- ▶ Need more arts and crafts vendor in fall season. Not spring. Wishing inside room for art and crafts
- ▶ We need more events

- ▶ The Mistletoe Market was such a fantastic event! Great vendors & a great day to enjoy our town. Perhaps add some refreshments as in coffee hot chocolate etc provided by local groups like church youth groups etc. the scarecrow contest brought so many people out & about around the square. Great job!
- ▶ Although, I've recently moved back to Eatonton. I lived here from age 2 to 14. It doesn't look like much has changed downtown other than geared more toward the arts. I have an 11 year old son and would love to see more.. restaurants with a variety for families to choose from, tired of fast food and sandwich shops, somewhere to shop besides Dollar store and Walmart that doesn't kill your wallet. Maybe a homegoods store, etc. I was pleasantly surprised with the Christmas lights. Dairy Festival?
- ▶ The sidewalk project needs to wrap up soon. I hate that downtown looks like a constant construction zone. We need more options to take kids, especially young kids.
- ▶ I would like to see more vendor markets happen. I love it. Me and my family have small businesses, and we can't find many and some are way to far and we would have to get up so early to go and get ready.
- ▶ Have the store fronts appear more uniform. The paper signs taped to the doors of some store windows/doors looks tacky. The murals are a wonderful, small town touch! Beautifully done. Would love to see more! The Christmas lights that line the tops of the buildings should stay up year round. They give an inviting feeling to the town.
- ▶ Keep pushing to become a walkable shop able downtown! Love our town!

- ▶ Need better signs to Main Street and information about things to do. Beautiful Veterans Memorial. More festivals and better vendors. Historical Christmas event, haunted cemetery tours for Halloween- team up with the County. Eatonton - do a eating contest to play off name. Hot dogs on July 4th etc.. Make the town where native S. Truett Cathy would want to have a Chick-fil-A. Divide larger buildings into areas to make more affordable space for boutiques and a market feel for shoppers.
- ▶ Bush on side of road at Popeyes sign blocks view of traffic in spring/summer. It's dangerous. Need a Chinese buffet restaurant in downtown or near Walmart. Everything else is beautiful.
- ▶ Would love businesses to post hours of operation on their store front
- ▶ Construction is coming along on the sidewalk. Maybe they will be finished by spring!!
- ▶ It is very motivating to see the progress Eatonton has made in the last year. I heard more positive remarks the day of the Mistletoe Market than I have heard in a long time. It felt so good to call Eatonton my home town. Thanks Lauren for all your hard work and dedication. Merry Christmas. The Mistletoe Market proves that people will come into Eatonton and spend their time and money. I think while the iron is hot we need to strike. Let's have the events.
- ▶ Keeping the sidewalks and strewts clean. More publicity for the Veterans Wall of Honor Park!

- ▶ empty storefronts should be filled with art/displays
- ▶ Would love to see a coffee/ice cream shop, or even a park to gather for all ages! At one time downtown Eatonton was trying to be made into a art type community w/ different arts and artists! It would be awesome to have like an arts and crafts cafe! Have artists come in and share their discipline like photography or painting or stitching or working w/ yarn or glass. Have local artists w/ community ties have seminars and start w/ 1 a quarter or month and then go from there! See how it catches on!
- ▶ Critter Paintings on water towers!! And add Vining Ivey Funeral home
- ▶ The city needs to establish and implement code/business ordinances to keep the historic atmosphere of downtown consistent with exterior paint colors, awning colors and signage standards, etc. The planters need to be painted a different color, white lights on the buildings should up year round, quarterly new banners should be hung in the downtown business district to promote Eatonton, American flags should be hung in the downtown business district year round. New artsy park benches are needed
- ▶ Change happens.. it is in how we manage the change.