

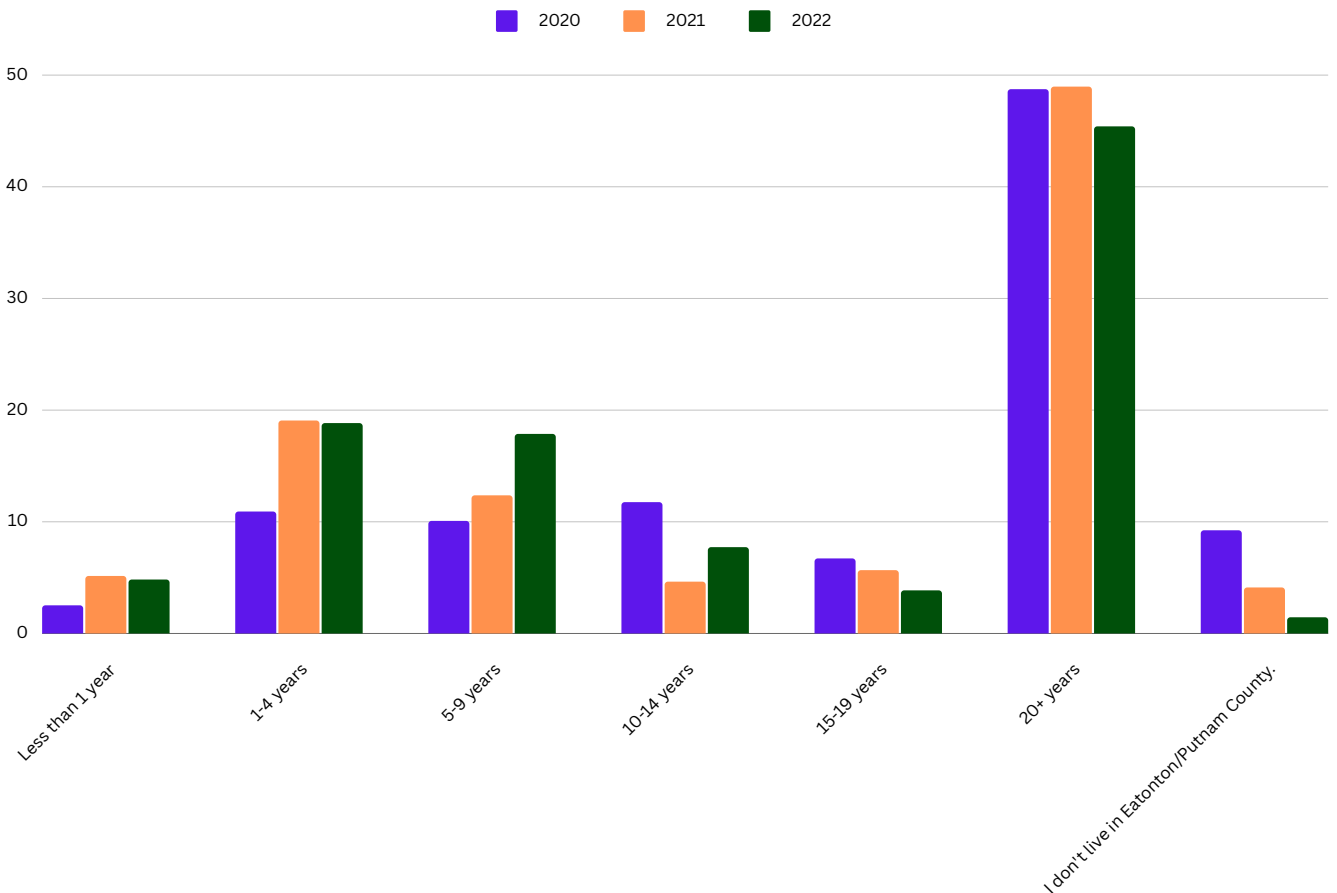


2022 Main Street Survey Results from the Public

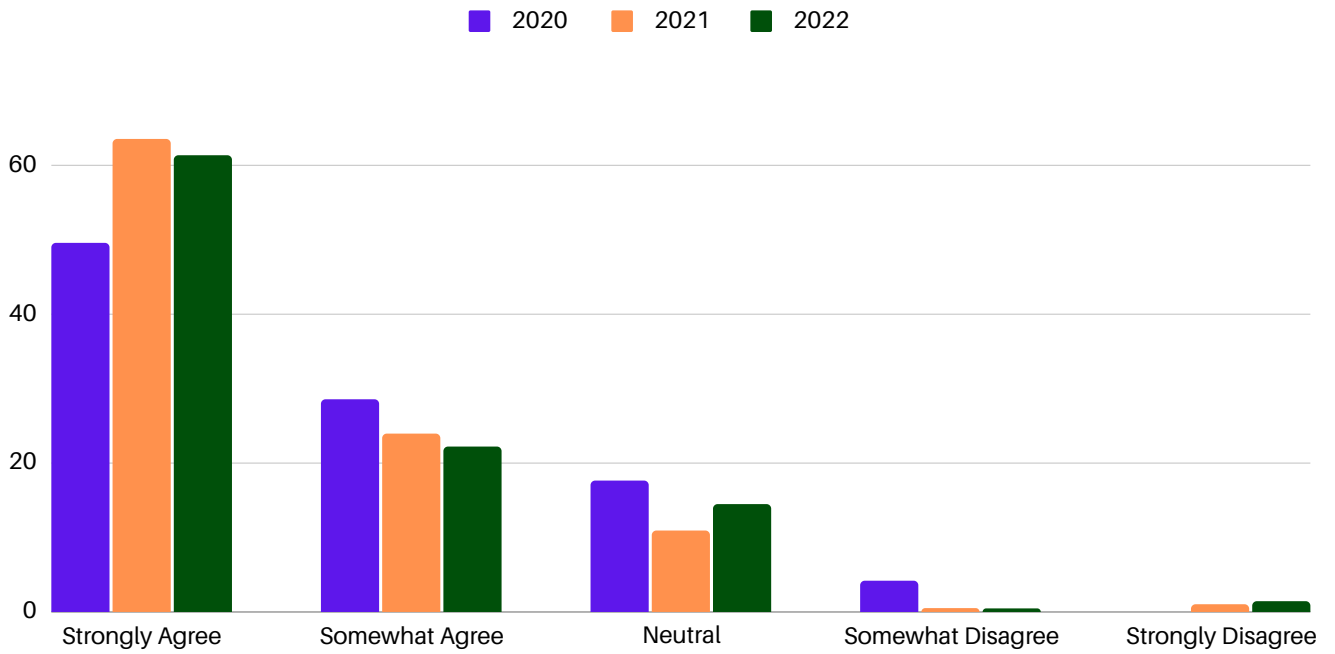
Survey Background:

- 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 2023.
- The survey was distributed to the public via email and social media from December 6, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
- 220 responses were received during this time period.
 - 196 responses were received in 2021.
 - 119 responses were received in 2020.

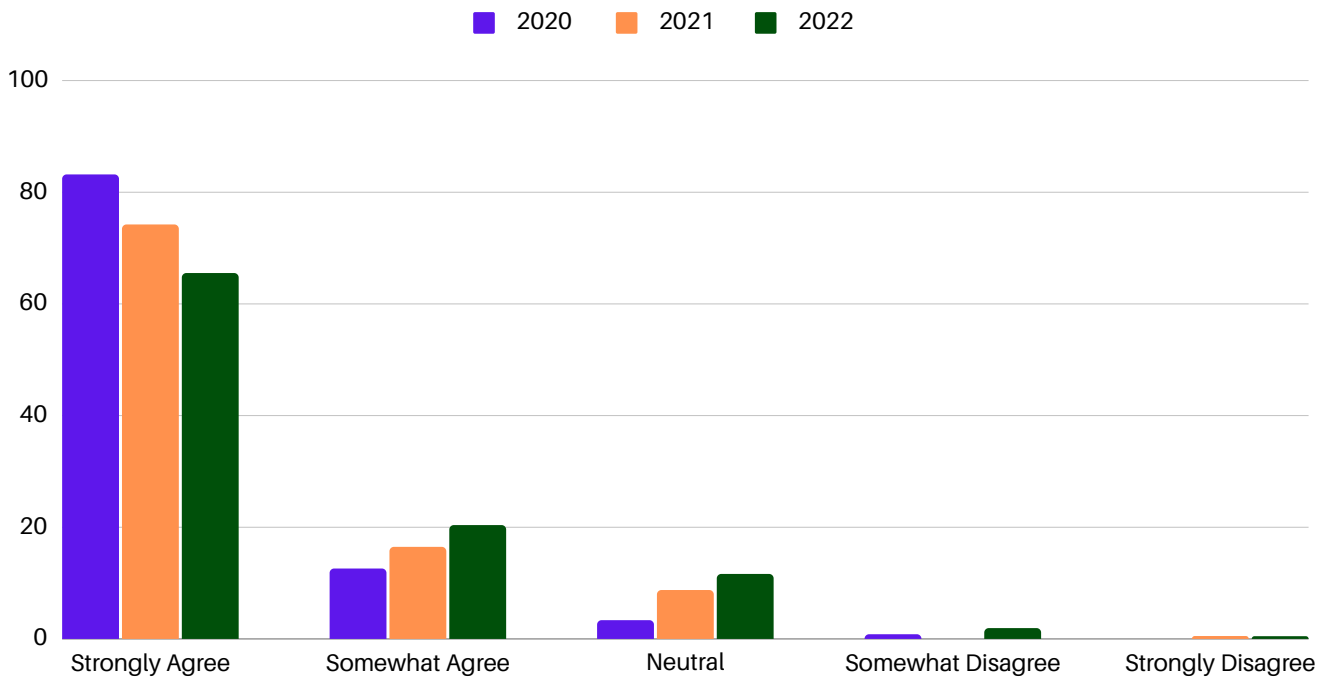
How long have you lived in Eatonton/Putnam County?



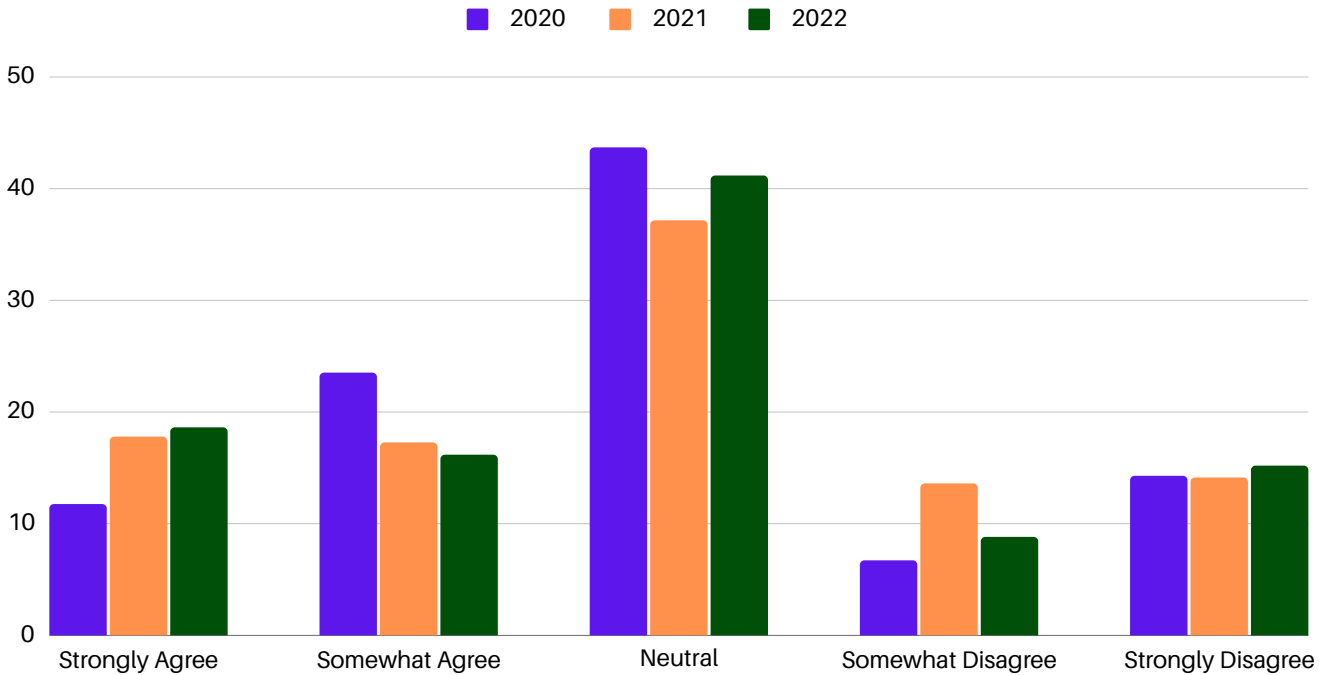
"There are not enough events in Downtown Eatonton."



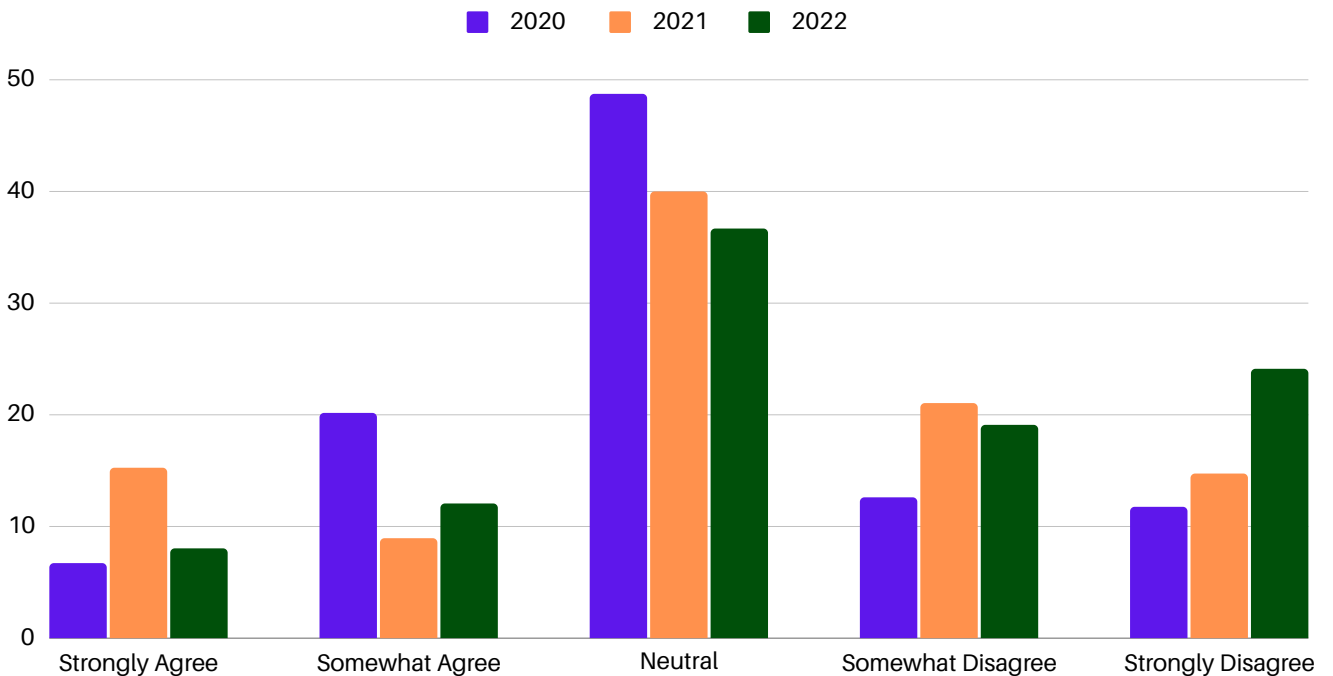
"There needs to be more businesses in downtown."



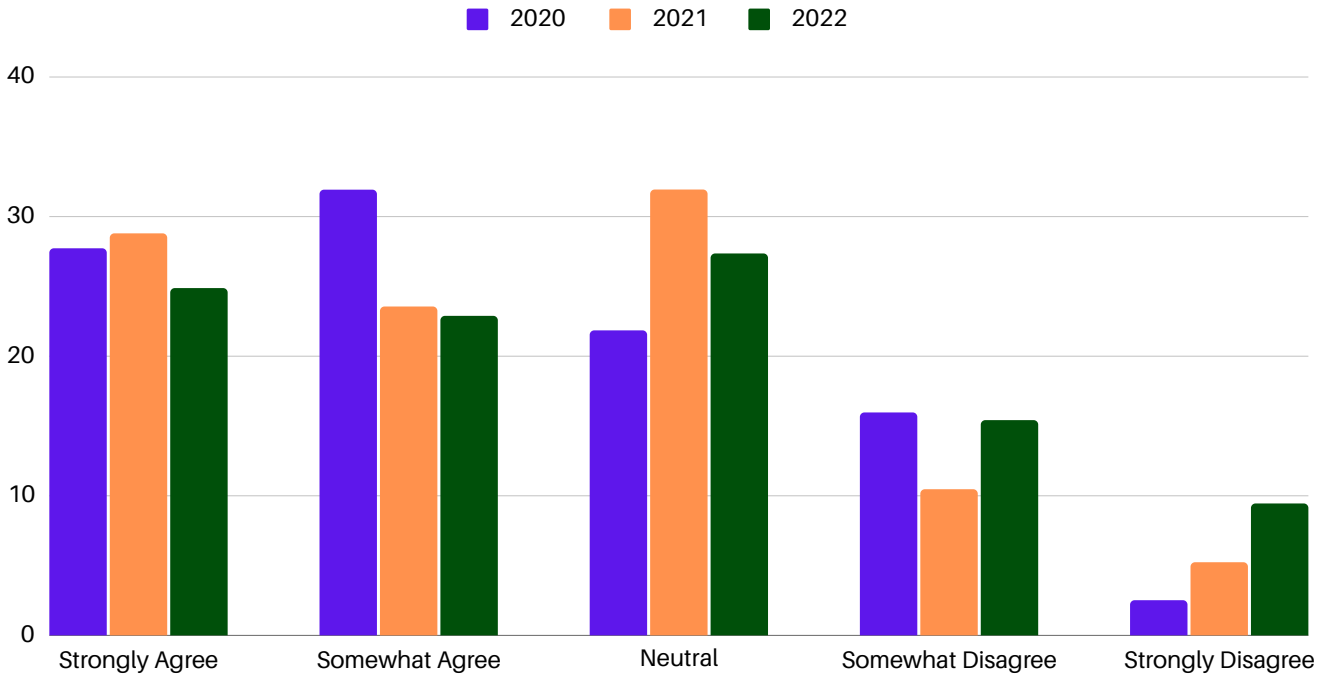
"I'm not sure what the Main Street program is about, and I would like to learn more about it."



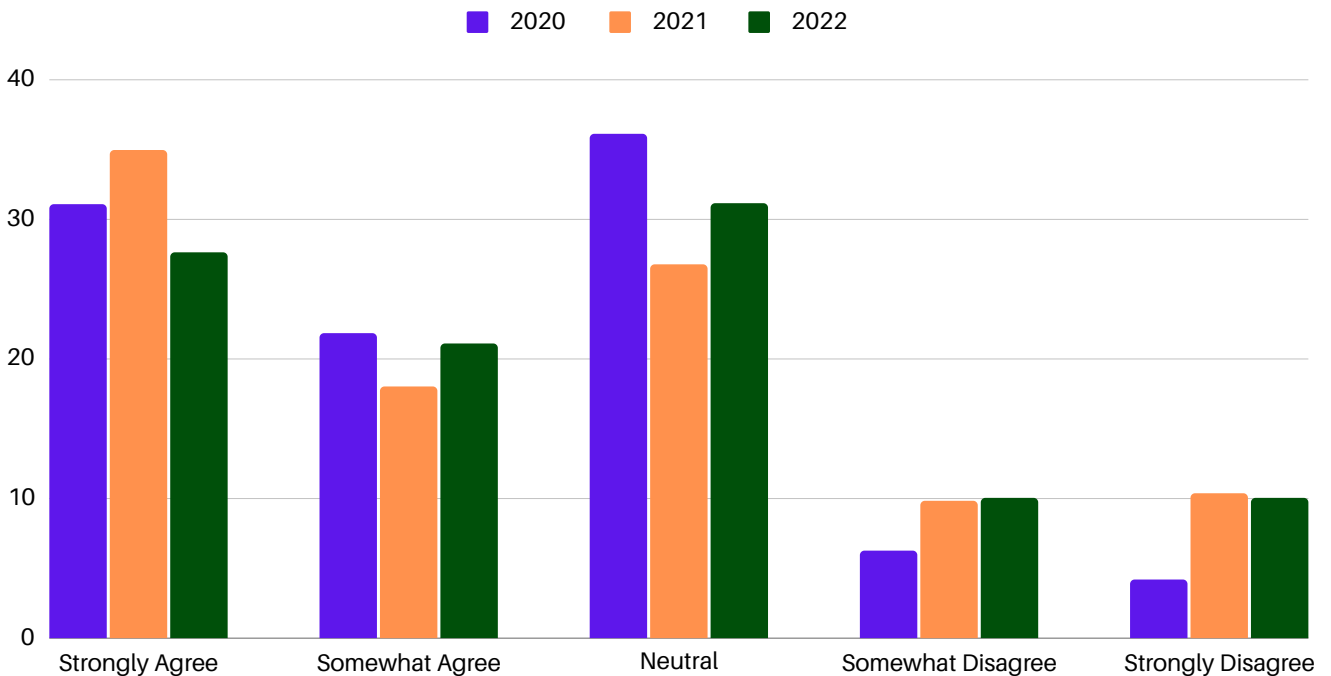
"I would like to be more involved and volunteer with Eatonton Main Street at events or on downtown related projects."



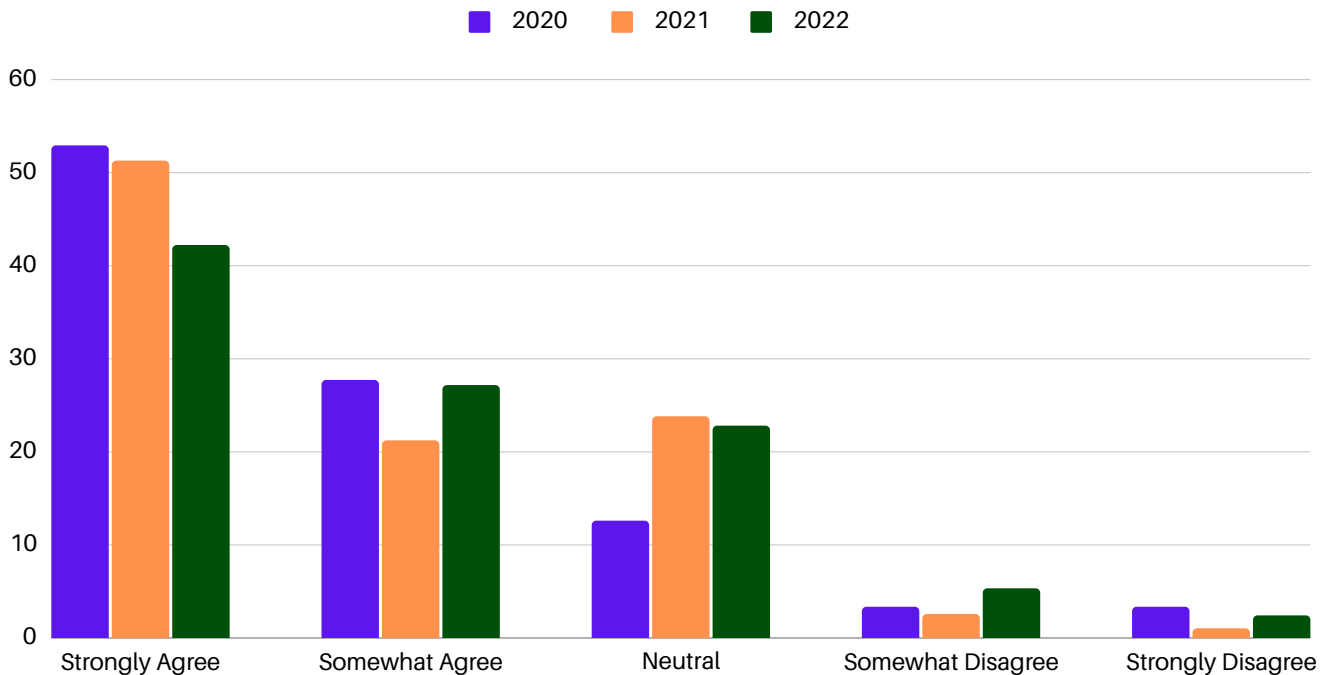
"Eatonton Main Street does a great job of keeping me informed of what's going on in Downtown Eatonton."



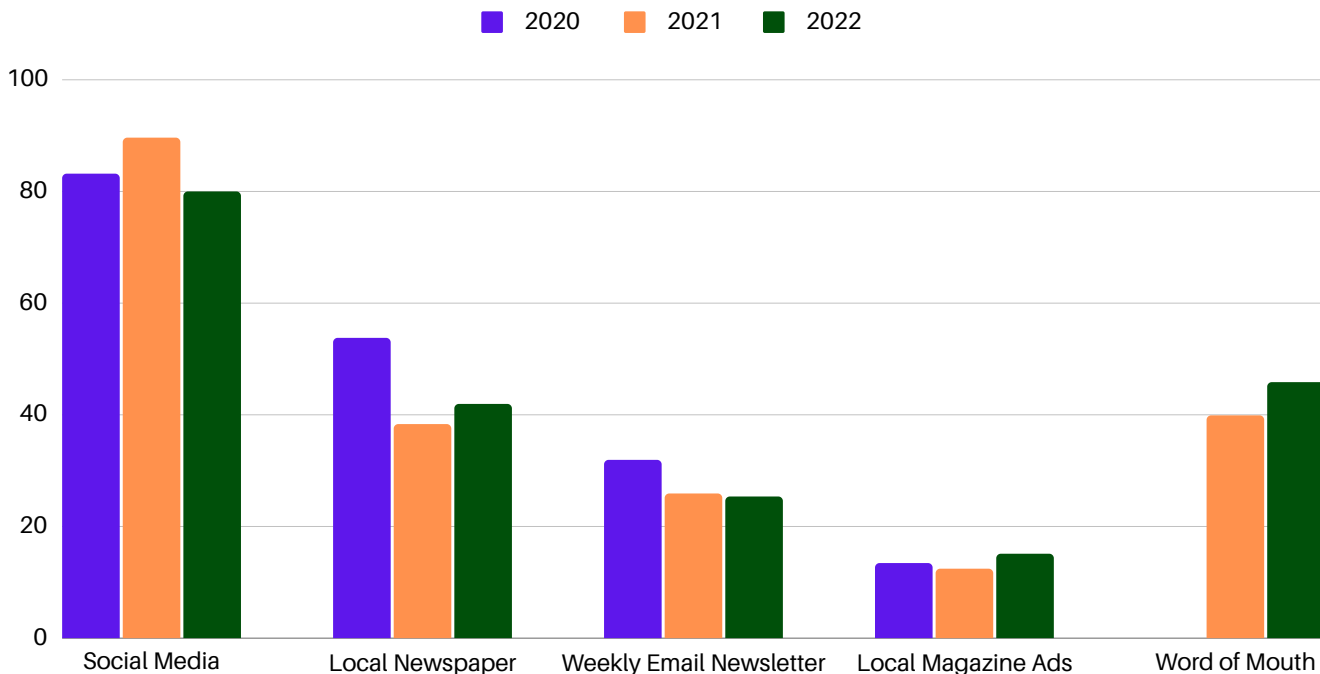
"The weekly email newsletters help me stay informed about what's going in Downtown Eatonton."



"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.)."



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



"Other" Responses:

Word of mouth, then it's too late!

Usually find out after it happens or I'm driving thru.

Peoples Bank sends employees emails pertaining to Eatonton Main Street events.

Your website.

Nextdoor.

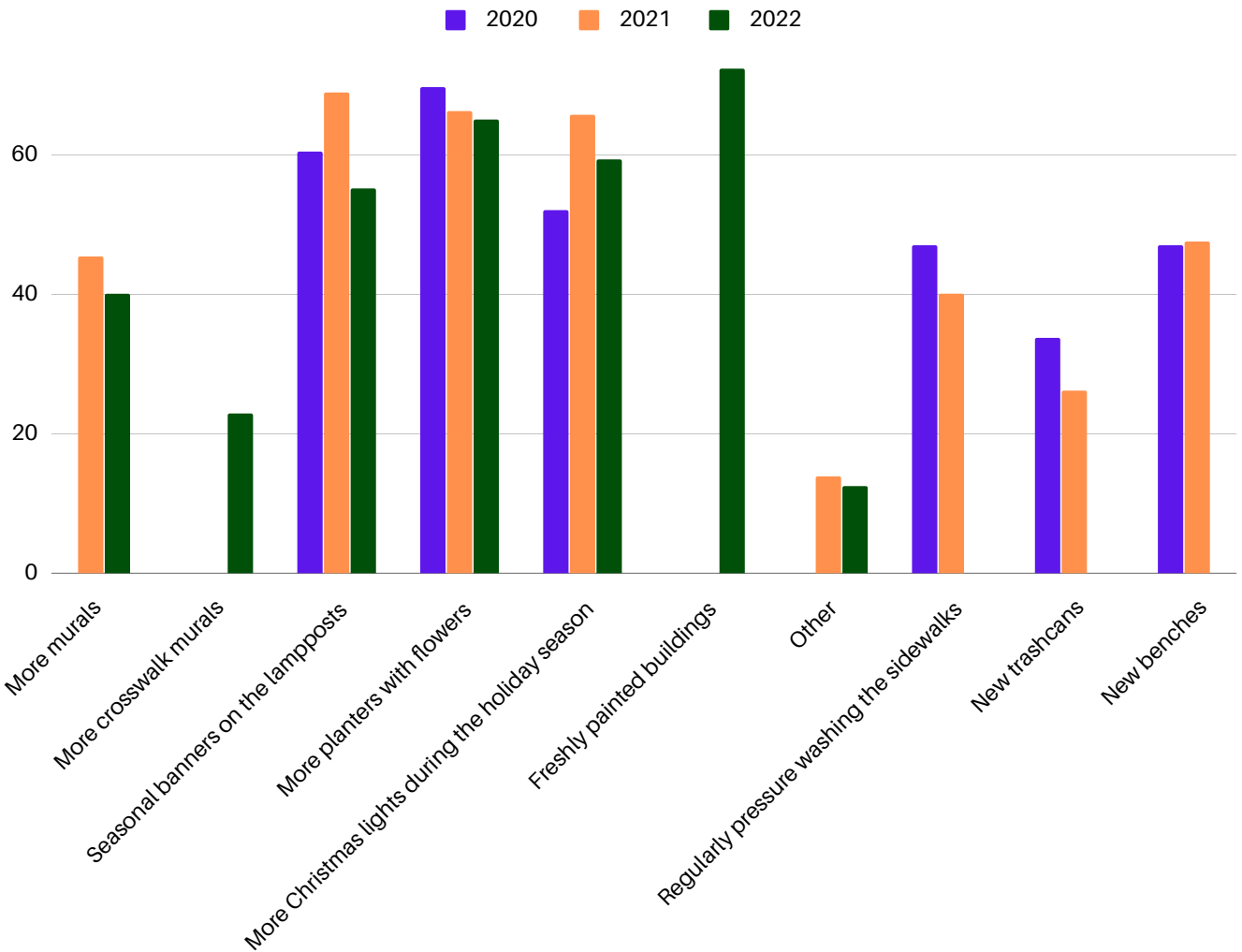
Church, friends, neighbors.

EPTAHP Board Meetings, general discussion since no one from the city attends, disappointing.

Which Main Street sponsored events would you like to see like to take place in 2023?



What would make Downtown Eatonton visually more appealing?



"Other" Responses:

The public bathroom at Turner Park needs a complete renovation. It is for the Public , but is in need of some tender loving care. It is maintained by the City.

PLEASE update or repair all "Welcome to Eatonton" city entry road signs. They are broken, outdated, faded, overgrown with weeds and climbing briars, or covered by yard debris. They make our town look bad to all who pass those signs.

Keep historical theme and colors.

More activity from additional businesses such as a candle, soaps, etc, shop, food store with olive oils, cheeses, wines, and more restaurants such as Chinese, Italian, Coffee Shop.

Need a balanced approach- do a walkthrough and make a top 10 list. Go visit towns such as Madison, Monroe and Greensboro. Greensboro to old buildings ripped down and made planters.

Trees whether in planters or in ground trimmed so as not to impede traffic.

less abandoned buildings.

Better ordinance on signage for businesses.

Twinkle lights in more trees!

It's a cute town none of these things will help you need more and diverse businesses, better events and modern communication (a weekly email is something i wouldn't sign up for).

more decorations throughout downtown, side walk corners decorated, court house lawn decorated, multi colored lights instead of all clear lights.. that's boring.

The lights outlining the top of downtown buildings are beautiful - Please leave them up and lighted year-round!

A bunch of neighbors & I discussed how wonderful it would be if the lights that border the tops of the downtown buildings during the holiday season could stay up year-round. They make the town so alive!

More craft shows.

More window paintings during holidays. More open car shows like at the courthouse the FMB corner over to Schremmers that was an awesome show and it brings EVERYONE together ♥.

Quality restaurants that offer good food at fair prices.

More of a variety of small shops like children's stores, a book store, a sandwich shop (should've kept the old soda fountain) in the old drug store. We need enough of a variety of shops that would warrant parking and getting out to walk from shop to shop.

No, empty store fronts. Put a gym in the downtown area for the local people to use.

More restaurants and shops.

More parking, walkability, better building facades, the town needs charm and quality businesses people know can be consistent. A downtown walkable area needs to be developed further away from busy traffic at Peoples Bank/Nina's intersections etc.

Less visible loitering around businesses entering town. (Makes it feel less safe).

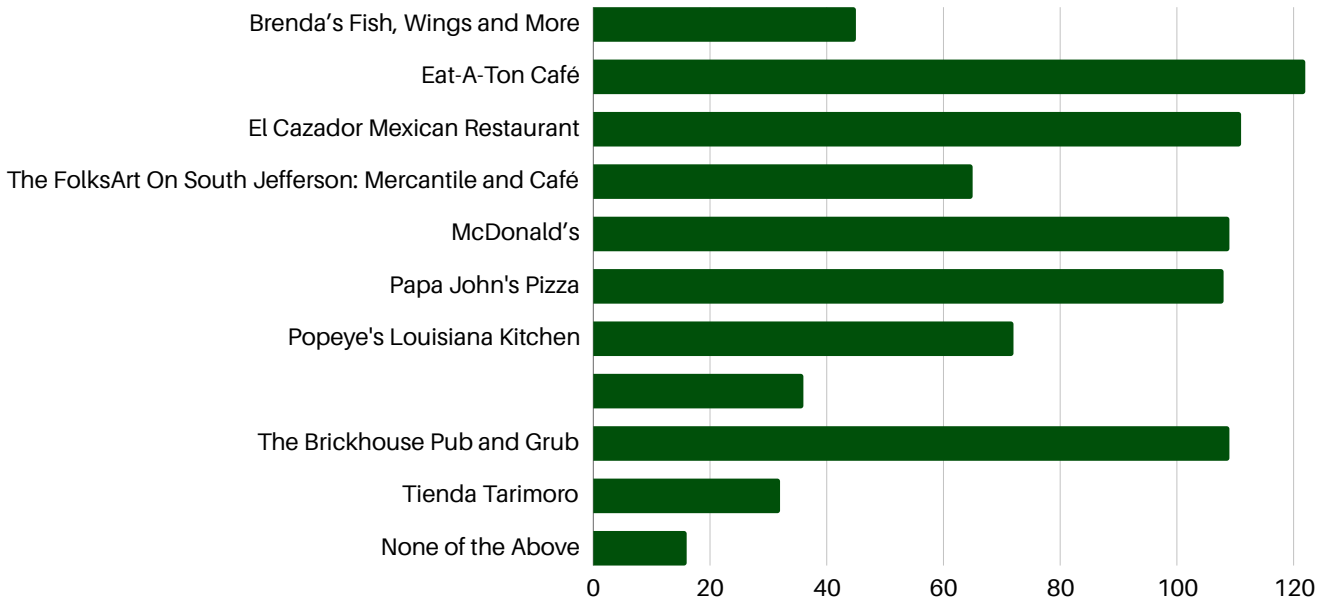
More exposure of local eco conscious initiatives already in place, photography themed exhibits shown at city hall, including horses in parades, participating in Earth day, participating in Pollinator city programs, participating in Arbor Day,

Awnings of one style and color for the majority of businesses.

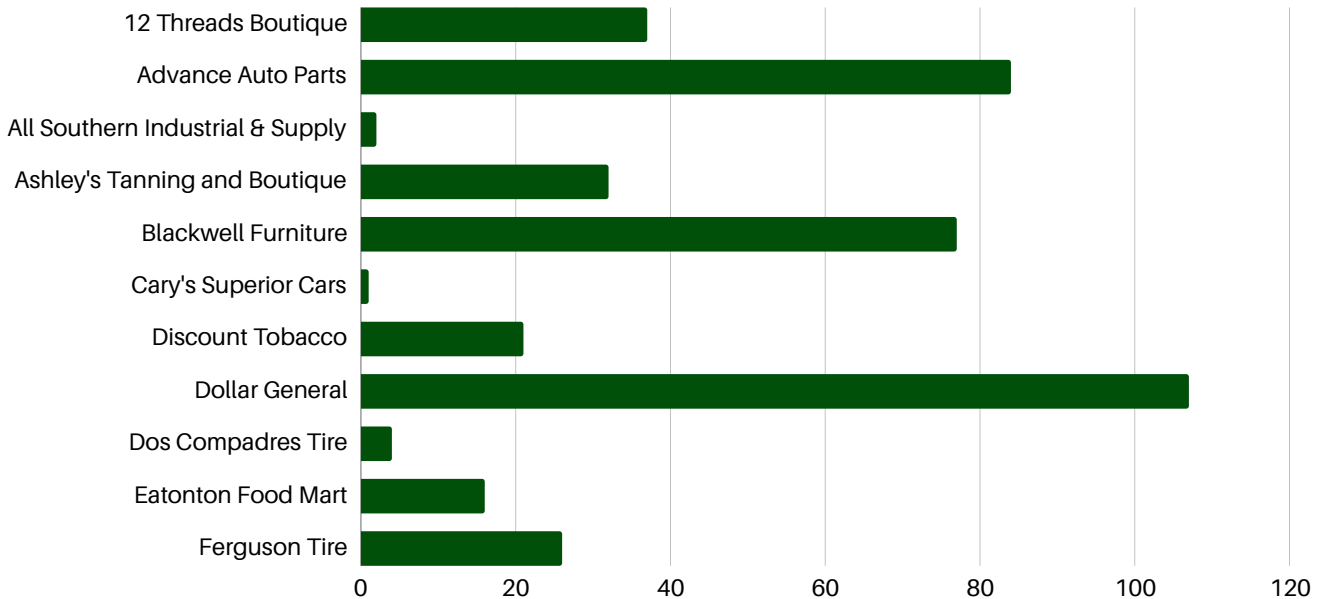
on the days of festivals and events, all businesses should be encouraged to open and put things out on the sidewalks in front of their businesses. Hopefully they are told and reminded about events so they can participate as well. We need a brewery.

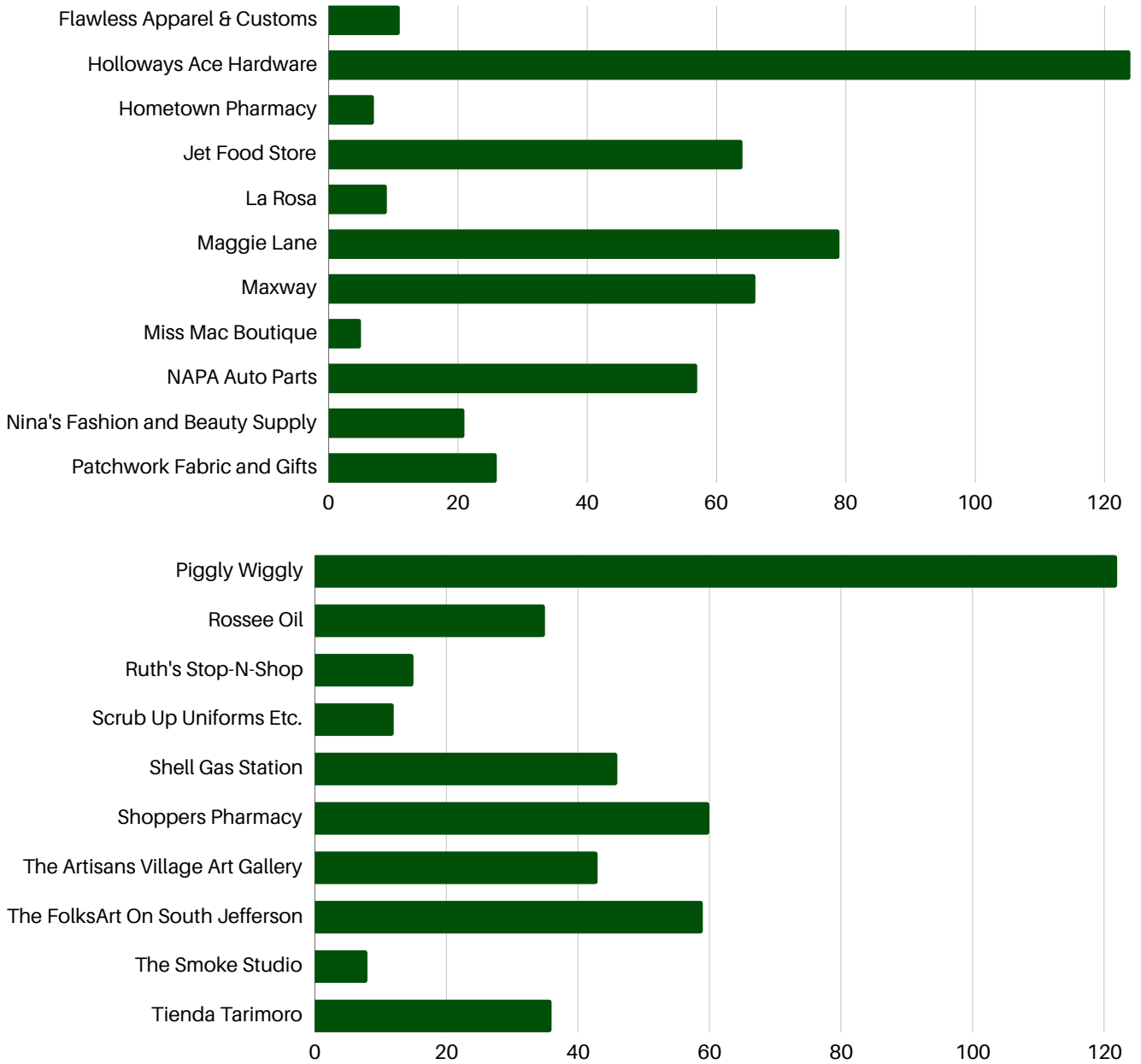
Downtown seems kind of boring. Bring more festivals. More events, more businesses. Eatonton needs to be more progressive. It seems to be a sleepy little town.

Which of the following RESTAURANTS did you patronize in 2022?



Which of the following STORES did you patronize in 2022?

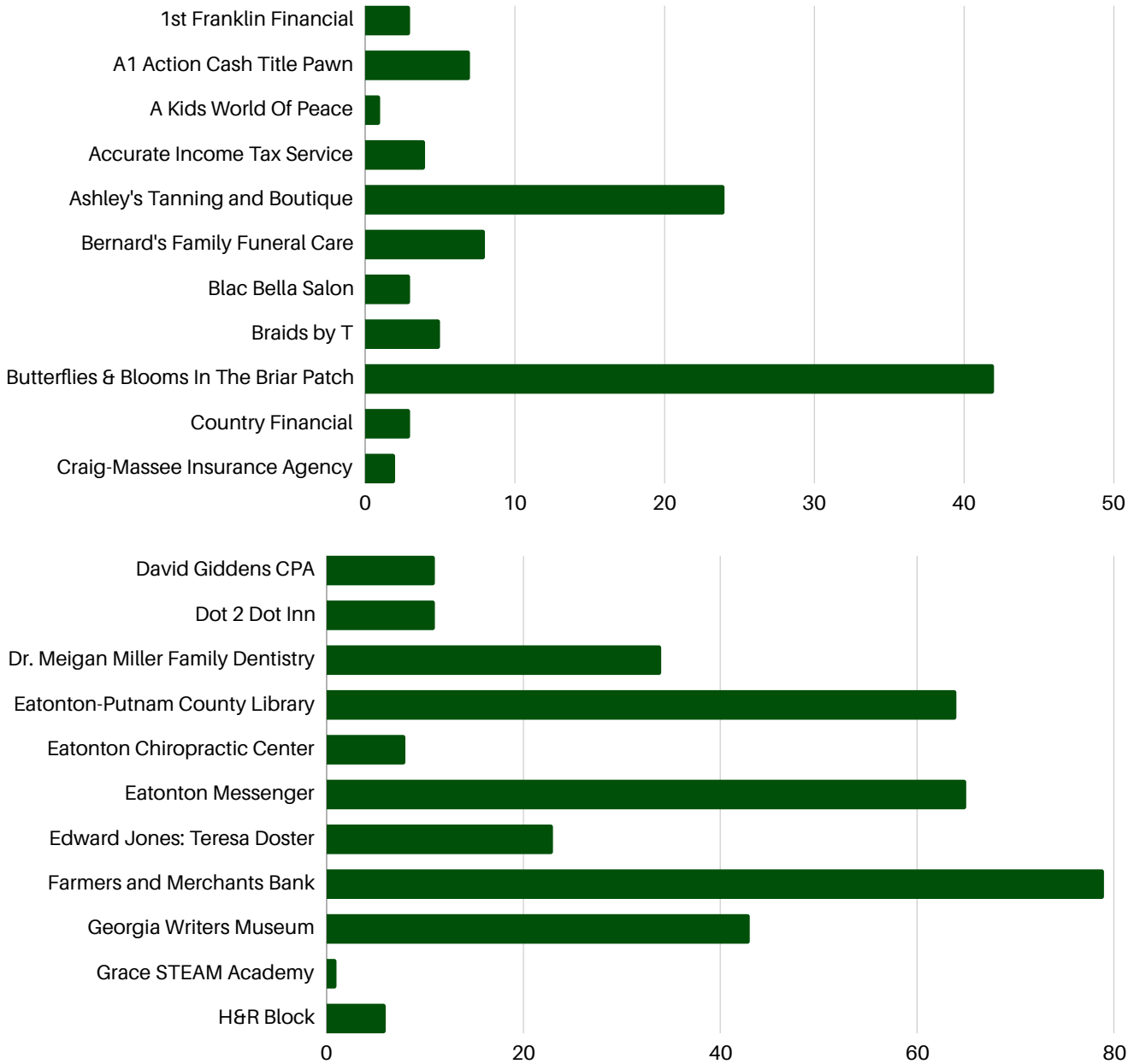


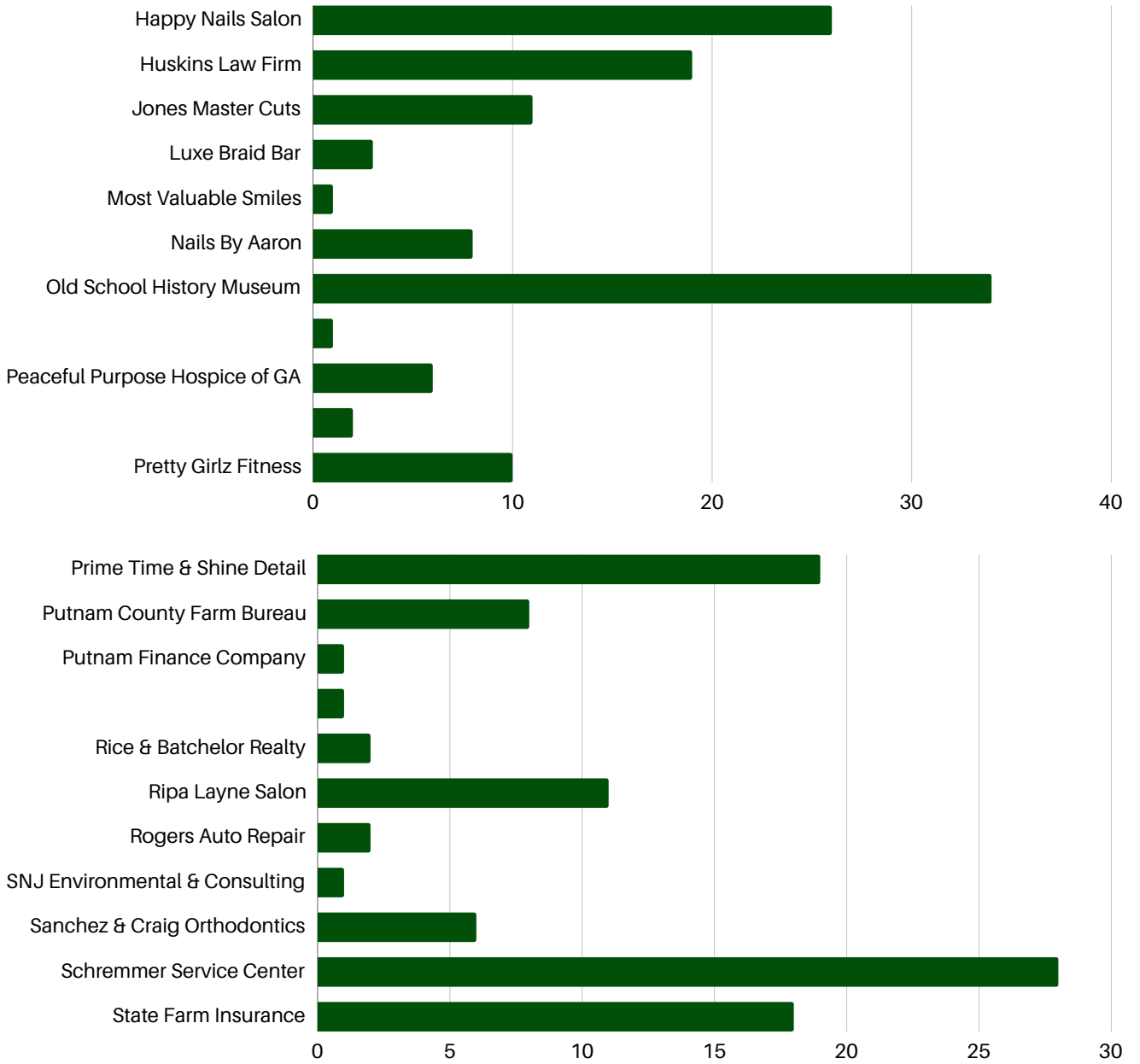


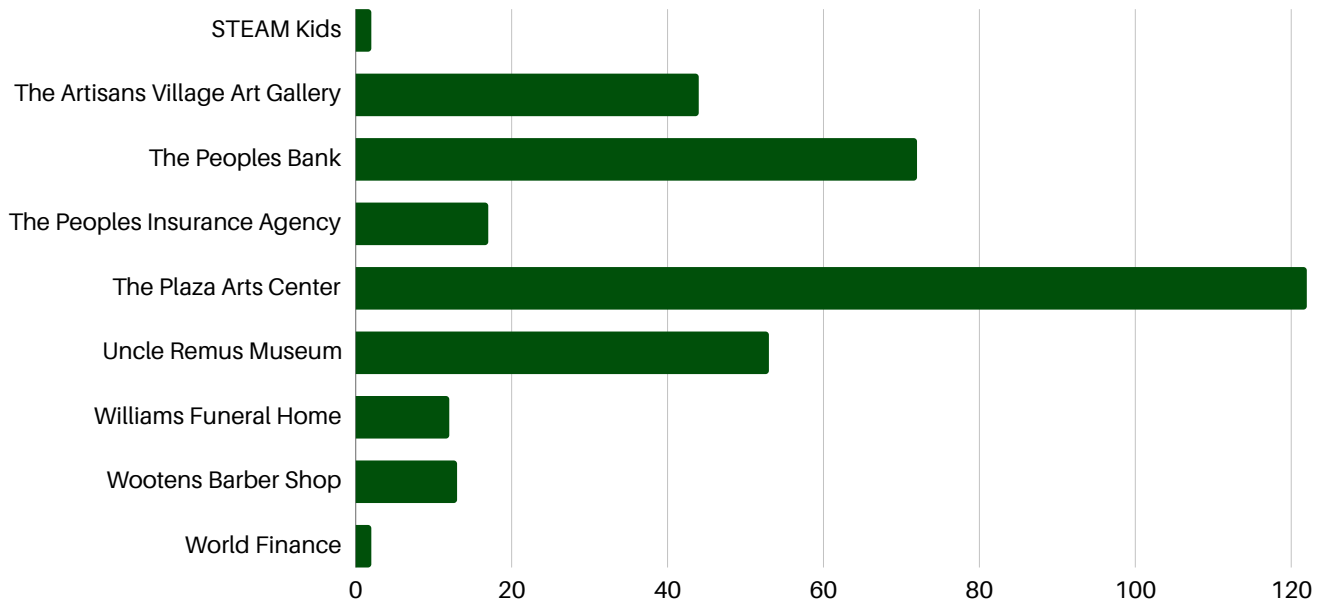
Stores that received "0" results:

- Middle GA Timber
- Regia Servicios
- Rent2Ride Auto Sales

Which of the following BUSINESSES did you patronize in 2022?







Businesses that received "0" results:

- AK Extensions by Alyson Kouture
- Budget Inn
- Eatonton Kidney Center
- Golden Links Healthcare

businesses seem to come and go so quickly there needs to be more manufacturers in the area to help provide clientele for the small shops and diners.

You need more sports pubs that serve pizza and wings. You need night entertainment, support live music. Bring the crowd to Eatonton, everyone has to go to the lake, Madison or Milledgeville. Need more dine in restaurants. Our town is boring and nothing to do, don't cater to the old folks, I'm old but dang cater to the younger generation they are the future. This isn't a church town lights out.

Can't wait for more restaurants and maybe festivals.

MORE RESTAURANTS & SHOPPING CENTERS.

Get those vape shops OUT of downtown. Business that are family oriented are more pleasing to the eye and reflect a safer downtown. There are places for vape shops. Just not in downtown. I stay away from that. I love FolksArt. That is a wonderful place. I'd like to see shops that focus on outdoor recreation. A center that shows our National Forest trails and outdoor recreational experiences, downtown historic walking path maps. Coffee shops, bakery, antiques (not junk store), a hip lounge, ASHVILLE.

Would like to see a brewery or a nice bar that has pool/darts. Please open the movie theatre. And please add more parking and get rid of the useless one way streets.

Great parade this year.

Thrift shopping, flea market, antiques would be nice. Use to have yard sale day at the plaza. Do they still do it?

Was too many antiquated stores. And you forgot Christain Outreach.

Boring.

Need to move and rename dairy festival. No longer applies. Move it to the fall cooler weather better outcome more people. Christmas parade should be in the evening with lights to make it more festive. If someone complains about the cold then they need to dress appropriately.

Use your Facebook page for announcements/weekly updates ditch the email. Focus on more modern events (farmers markets, festivals), creating the right business environment (good restaurants).

The parades (Christmas Parade) was so horrible it didn't even have the local marching band in it, maybe schedule it closer to Thanksgiving or before the second week of December.

I'd love to see more restaurants downtown. We're excited to try the Rabbit Hole over the holidays.

Sad to see so many empty buildings in town. I wish the new restaurant would open earlier than 7:00. My elderly friends from out of town don't want to have drive home so late.

More publicity/ information re Veterans Wall of Honor Park.

Need Target!!!

Eatonton would be so beautiful if there were a set standard to how businesses present themselves. For example, Nina's beauty supply... the painted mural is not needed. Why not use that brick wall to display a mural that represents Eatonton as a whole? Also, the smoke shop... unappealing in general. Business could have a cohesive signage rule to all have a pleasing aesthetic. Lastly, the tire shops, cars for sale shops, etc., they should put their stuff away. There should be an ordinance.

There needs to be more events for the African American, Hispanic as well as other ethnic groups.

get rid of the ugly lights at the vape shop.

This is the same comment I put above, but a bunch of neighbors and I think it would be awesome if the lights that border the tops of the downtown buildings during the holiday season could stay up year-round. They make the town seem so ambient and happy! We notice this in a lot of other small towns year-round, and it makes a big difference. Thanks for all you do!

Butterflies & Blooms NEEDS some type of even short decorative fence blocking children from running straight at the highway blind thinking they're running through an open field. We strongly feel like we still need a separate children's playground aside from the schools WITH actual baby swings as well 2 great starting idea locations would be beside Butterflies & Blooms OR the large grass area across from the church before Aluminum Plant Hill. Where Butterflies & Blooms WAS. I had sketched it out.

More clothing stores and gift shops.

I wish the Christmas parade were in conjunction with a celebration something like the Dairy Festival with the parade actually being after dark ...is so much better for the lights and festivities 😊

Please go back to beautiful colorful Christmas decorations and not those only white snowflakes. Other towns with ones like Eatonton used to have are so much more pretty.

I appreciated the limitations placed of the Scarecrows this fall. I would like to see these again, but have the entrees around the courthouse. The visuals would be greatly enhanced.

Change our Chamber of Commerce sign back to the old one.

Our favorite is the Dairy Festival and parade.

People love murals, even ones they can take a picture with!!! Like the famous wings in Nashville! People love and are attracted to music, drinking, and food trucks!!! Also, it would be nice to do like downtown Macon eventually with all the Christmas lights in the middle of their downtown, with music playing throughout!

I hope to attend some of the music events this year. And try some of the local Restaurants. I did not have a good first interaction with the owner of the Bickhouse. What happened to the movie studio that was here a few years back? Filming movies and music videos in Eatonton might bring more visitors. A large pickle ball center and hotel could host tournaments and local teams for league play. Need Uber or taxi service. Be nice to see code enforcement on neglected properties throughout the county.

Use the outdoor stage for one act plays. Mellow dramas are murder mysteries in the Moonlight. People bring their own lawn chairs and we supply the popcorn to throw at the bad guy in the melodrama.

y'all need to paint the water tower downtown something fun so it can be a recognizable landmark for our city, Paint it black & white cow pattern. we also need more businesses downtown. More food places would be awesome.

The town looks dreary and junky. Just an honest opinion. For all the tax revenue that Putnam County gets, it is not going to revitalize the city. Also, not everyone is rich and lives on the lake. A town green needs to be established where the Saturday farmers market can be and during the warmer months there needs to be some free concerts of the most popular genres according to the population. A good example is the city of Snellville. It took them a while to get it established but it is nice.

Main Street is doing a great job to bring out town to life! I love the community events! Christmas caroling down the avenue could be a fun event!

The stage area needs to be moved up on the square. Its present location does not allow any visibility which to most makes events seem like a failure.

The downtown area needs some staple anchor businesses, some bigger names that bring people downtown to walk around. It needs to look nice, safe & charming if you want people to actually walk around, and they need something to do. A garden, playground, fountain, etc. On top of that, the businesses have to be consistent - El Cazador had terrible service the last time I brought people, canned reheated beans, & 2 roaches on the floor. I can't count on some downtown businesses to be consistent.

I would love all the vacant stores to be filled with a variety of different type stores.

Keep trying. We need a vibrant downtown.

Water towers should be painted with uncle Remus characters.

This city has come a long way, but needs more support to continuing to grow. I have had to send groups to Madison for lunch as choices are very few here. Would love to see a coffee shop/bakery.

We need close the smoke shop.

Restaurants with normal hours. Went to eat 5-6 different times at different restaurants and were closed during their normal business hours. No way to run a business. Have no idea if Eat-a-ton is open anymore. Brick house is a hit or miss. One day the sign said open and the door was unlocked but nobody there. After several of these we just quit trying to eat on the square.

Is Pizza Hut not considered "Downtown Eatonton?"

Would like to see more indoor and outdoor concerts. For the pec movie theater to have entertainment, plays and concerts. Thanks for all your doing.

Would like for there to be guidelines that require businesses to keep building colors uniformed and maintain historical colors. Do not like the circus colors and big banners in historical towns on buildings.

Downtown needs a Chinese restaurant, either dine in with carry out or just carry out. It's a shame we have to go to Milledgeville or Greensboro to get Chinese food.

Love our little town.

I was highly disappointed when the Christmas stars were removed from the historic district on Madison Avenue to place them elsewhere. More stars should be purchased for Madison Avenue and downtown. The planter need to be better maintained. The city purchased hanging baskets for some of the light poles, which were expensive, then suddenly stopped using them. What a waste of money.

I went to Nails by Aaron and it was drab, out of date and dumpy will not return. Maggie Lane is great. Nuovo Corso bike shop is nice and was left off the list Popeye's is old and gross. The disco smoke shop does not belong downtown it looks sketchy and low class. Eat-a-ton is great. I patronize Tangles hair salon.

Need something to bring people downtown. There's nothing happening on weekends. Open better restaurants, have music, open a microbrewery. Downtown is dead!! It's not 1950 anymore.

We need a yoga studio and a coffee shop, brewery. We need to promote shopping local. There needs to be a business association to build cohesion among businesses. I love BEE and Main Street. The PLAZA is wonderful!

I'd like to see more Christmas decorations placed further down N. Jefferson Ave. Lamp posts would be nice too. So many people walk this street and adequate lighting would be great.

I would love to see a variety of restaurants...especially a good Chinese restaurant. :)

Eatonton's downtown churches and others came together for the 14th annual "Christmas on the Avenue" concert at the Plaza Arts center, something that can only happen in a close community like ours. It was well promoted and well attended. It was disappointing that it was not promoted by Eatonton Main Street. The information had been shared, and we were told that it would be listed this year, though not in previous years. More people in our community attend church than any other activity.

I always enjoyed the briar patch arts festival in Oct. bring it back !

I think there are opportunities to make this town more appealing to locals and tourists. When I have visitors in town we go many other places for fun but not Eatonton. Nothing to do in Eatonton and the businesses close early.

Love the new places. Definitely a place to be.

It's great that Mainstreet is conducting surveys, now the Mainstreet Manager needs to get out into the community to report back on the findings, ask for additional feedback from those who didn't see or participate on the survey and all the results need to be published online, in the Eatonton Messenger. The city must put into place an implementation plan with financial support to make the recommendations happen. Please get crosswalks installed in the city on S & N Jefferson St PLEASE PLANT TREES!

Wow, I obviously need to get involved in Eatonton! So sorry that we've not patronized any of its establishments. That will change in 2023. Moving to the LAKE in August has been overwhelming. Now it's time for fun!

The Christmas parade and Mistletoe Market should be combined.

I would love to see the sidewalks and the front of the businesses more inviting. When I have friends and family that comes to visit, they never want to go to downtown Eatonton. It's either Madison or Covington. They say Eatonton is so boring looking.

We need a general store or department store. Also other high end clothing stores.

Eatonton is my hometown. And I've lived here all my life. Except for 6 months I was Fort Bragg, N.C .

I am worried that the library will close one day because it is never busy.

I thought the Santa's set up after the parade was pitiful. Such a fun cute idea. And love Santa and Mrs clause. But the chair I. The stage were so tacky. It was an ugly backdrop. And the blankets over the chairs were awful. Definitely think that could be way better.

Please, fix up down town Eatonton! Start getting more variety of stores. I would love to spend my money there instead of downtown Covington and Madison. It's such a ghost town when we go through there on weekends and it shouldn't be like that. (The entrances of the stores are so bland. They don't draw you in.)