

# 2018 Pierpont Community Survey Key Findings

## Who responded to the survey?

- 30% of Pierpont Township households (183 out of 610)
- 89% live in & own land in Pierpont; 11% live in Pierpont, but do not own land
- 51% female; 49% male
- 49% two person households; 15% one-person households
- 23% lived in Pierpont Township 12 yrs or less; 49% 22 yr or less; 28% 40+ years
- 12% under the age of 40 yr; 52% are over the age of 60; 25% are 68+ yr

## Values & perspectives held in common [very important/important]

- 87% value Pierpont because it is a small town
- 84% value Pierpont's sense of community

### *Institutions*

- 97% value the volunteer fire department
- 95% value the US Post Office
- 71% value Pymatuning Valley Schools
- 59% value churches close to where I live

### *Natural & built resources*

- 88% value the abundance of water our climate produces
- 83% value living close to a natural environment
- 82% value Pierpont's forests and woodlands
- 80% value Pierpont's agricultural landscape
- 70% value the covered bridges in the township
- 69% value closeness to Lake Erie & Pymatuning Lake
- 69% value natural resources for outdoor sports
- 69% value being close to family and friends
- 68% value Pierpont as a great place to retire
- 67% value scenic rural vistas
- 64% value East & West Branches of the Ashtabula River

## Concern about Pierpont Township housing

- 66% find the cost repair/replacement of septic systems a big concern
- 49% find aging housing stock & number of buildings in poor quality a big concern
- 45% find residential homes have adequate all-season roads a big concern
- 37% find the quality & quantity of drinkable water a big concern
- 25% find failing residential septic systems a big concern

## Pierpont infrastructure

- 76% find lack of destination services in downtown Pierpont a problem: serious (47%) or moderate (29%)
- 76% find aging commercial buildings downtown a problem: serious (39%) or moderate (37%)
- 71% find access to reliable internet service and affordable internet a problem: serious (44%; 45%) or moderate (27%; 26%)
- 70% find lack of recycling services a problem: serious (26%) or moderate (35%)
- 69% find lack of sewer system downtown to draw new business/expand existing business a problem: serious (39%) or moderate (30%)
- 58% find township secondary roads are not paved a problem: serious (34%) or moderate (24%)
- 55% find lack of public water system a problem: serious (25%) or moderate (30%)

37% find sidewalks downtown a problem: serious (12%) or moderate (25%)  
36% find limited green space downtown a problem: serious (8%) or moderate (28%)  
33% find attractiveness of Pierpont cemeteries a problem: serious (11%) or moderate (22%)  
29% find inadequate downtown parking a problem: serious (6%) or moderate (23%)

#### **Pierpont residents vision for Pierpont** [strongly agree/agree]

90% would like more local shopping opportunities  
88% would like downtown Pierpont to be more attractive  
85% would like for Pierpont to have a strong social-economic center  
68% think that residential housing would grow if there were more retail businesses

#### **Services Pierpont residents would use if they were available** [definitely, likely, might, never]

90% would definitely or likely use a convenience food store; 3% would never use  
81% would definitely or likely use a full service grocery store; 4% would never use  
80% would definitely or likely use a general merchandise store; 4% would never use  
77% would definitely or likely use a diner/restaurant; 4% would never use  
77% would definitely or likely use a gas station; 2% would never use  
75% would definitely or likely use banking services; 6% would never use  
75 % would definitely or likely use a hardware store; 3% would never use  
60% would definitely or likely use a bakery; 5% would never use  
51% would definitely or likely use a beer, wine, spirits store; 30% would never use  
43% would definitely or likely use an auto service & repair shop; 12% would never use  
42% would definitely or likely use a doctor/health care office; 8% would never use  
33% would definitely or likely use an exercise/fitness center; 31% would never use  
26% would definitely or likely use a physical therapy center; 22% would never use  
22% would definitely or likely use access to continuing ed/certification program; 38% never  
15% would definitely or likely use retirement housing; 34% would never use  
12% would definitely or likely use childcare; 67% would never use  
8% would definitely or likely use office/business space to rent; 58% would never use

#### **VISION for Pierpont**

*Pierpont is an attractive, vibrant small rural community of industrious people surrounded by rivers, agricultural and forested landscapes with a strong social and economic center.*

#### **REALIZING THE VISION. A good start.**

183 Pierpont residents and 23 landowners/not residents responded to the survey. Over half of respondents are willing to actively help revitalize Pierpont. Many wrote extensive, thoughtful comments about concerns, love of Pierpont, satisfaction and discontent with their community, and hopes for the future. **Over-development.** A number of respondents cautioned that we not lose the small town, rural atmosphere in the process of strengthening the social and economic aspects.

**Revitalization Committee activities:** Develop an economic action plan; explore broadband access and a downtown sewer system; and actively engage potential funding sources.

Revitalizing Pierpont is a long term commitment. It will need each of us to generously share our talents and resources; and will require we listen to each other and be respectful and tolerant of our differences. A renewed community is possible when we focus on our shared values and vision for Pierpont and encourage each other as we seek established and innovative, unique ways of working towards our goal.