

Neighborhood Of Choice Survey Results

Census Tract 308

50 Respondents as of November 7, 2007

1. The conditions of homes, yards and general attractiveness of my neighborhood are:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------|---------|------|
| Very Satisfactory | Satisfactory | Good | Average | Poor |
| 3 | 13 | 6 | 19 | 9 |

2. A) Is your neighborhood experiencing a high population turnover rate with people frequently moving into or out of the neighborhood?

| | |
|--------|-------|
| A) Yes | A) No |
| 25 | 24 |

B) If you were to start over again would you choose this neighborhood?

| | |
|--------|-------|
| B) Yes | B) No |
| 17 | 28 |

3. With respect to open space, safety, and walkability in your neighborhood, how would you describe the condition, adequacy and quality of parks, sidewalks, street trees, schoolyards, and the fit of structures relative to their lot size?

| | | | | |
|-----------|------|---------|---------------|------|
| Very Good | Good | Average | Below Average | Poor |
| 5 | 15 | 18 | 11 | 3 |

4. My neighborhood has a low incidence of crime and vandalism and we feel secure here.

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 4 | 20 | 10 | 16 | 3 |

5. I live in a sociable neighborhood where many know each other and sense support.

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 3 | 17 | 15 | 12 | 5 |

6. Nuisances (barking dogs, glaring lights, junk/trash, parking in front yards, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, littering, burning, commercial vehicles, outside storage, noise and engine exhausts) are infrequent and not a problem.

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 3 | 8 | 7 | 19 | 13 |

7. Other issues such as quality of schools, city services (as in sewer, water, zoning, fire, police, streets, parks), housing affordability, employment, friends and family are equal or greater contributors to my choice (location) of residence.

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
| 4 | 21 | 16 | 5 | 3 |

Neighborhood of Choice Survey Results
Census Tract 308
Question Comments

Quotations have not been edited.

1. The conditions of homes, yards and general attractiveness of my neighborhood are:

- * Junk around houses & porches
- * All but one, the house on the corner of Broadway & Keyte junk in yard all the time & corner of Farr & Alger Too.
- * My neighborhood is nice but the few that happen to surround my house
- * Nothing is like its cared about taking care of
- * Brush - weeds - lawns not mowed.
- * But there are some properties that are horrible!
- * has improved from 10-20 years ago
- * Some of the rental homes in our area need porches seriously replaced - like the comp. roof area & decking.
- * Lawns, clean up around homes, paint beside
- * There is an empty house corner of Ridge & S. Ball that has only been mowed twice this year. I'm old & have to pay to get mine mowed.
- * To many rentals
- * I think my Stewart St neighborhood is very nice.
- * on my block. The next block (across from Baker) contains 2 real eyesore houses. At least one is rental. Baker College's campus helps raise the average - it is beautifully maintained. My neighbors are pretty good about maintaining their front yards.
- * 2 or 3 families on our street are fixing up their homes.
- * A few homes look great, most do not pride of ownership
- * some have junk/trash in yard
- * We have an empty house across the street (4-5 yrs.) looks rough
- * Some take very good care, some very poor.
- * Except a couple of houses.
- * A house across from Baker is in very bad shape
- * Most prooperties are very shabby and unkept
- * We have very nice neighbors
- * The 200 block of W. RIDGE ST. is good - 300 block is not.
- * Only on my block & across the street
- * Lawn's not keep up trash behind home
- * Tarps used for roofing - unkept yards

2A. Is your neighborhood experiencing a high population turnover rate with people frequently moving into or out of the neighborhood?

2B. If you were to start over again would you choose this neighborhood?

- * Most people keep to their selves.

- * would live in the country
- * Because of turnover, lights, noises, loud stereos in cars.
- * I have lived here 64 years.
- * I live at Kona Villa since 1988. Very Pleased
- * Neighbors houses in disarray and messy and they violate several laws (parking in the street after 11 p.m., noise from motorcycle late at night, etc.)
- * I would look for a friendlier, more stable place.
- * Good place to be / close to stores
- * Due to turnover, especially in the 300 block. The houses on the 300 block are deteriorating.
- * Not a lot of interaction with neighbors (my fault also)
- * The North side is better taken care of.
- * Would like to be in a less crowded (populated) area.
- * Maybe
- * neighborhood neglect
- * Too many rentals
- * Neighborhood is deteriorating, with single family homes turned into apartments.

3. With respect to open space, safety, and walkability in your neighborhood, how would you describe the condition, adequacy and quality of parks, sidewalks, street trees, schoolyards, and the fit of structures relative to their lot size?

- * Well lit streets
- * Neighbors have overgrown weeds and trees that makes it unsafe back yard, tires, junk
- * People don't clean the side walks of debris
- * No parks, no street lights, skateboard park is dirty and unattractive. No sidewalks at corner facing waterworks.
- * Some Sidewalks broke - bushes over walks
- * Needs some improvement
- * sidewalks need repair
- * Except on Alger the sidewalk on west side of street, nearer Monroe should be replaced due to a tree problem
- * Fix up houses 1 lg tree need's to come down
- * low hanging branches on street trees; condition of sidewalks
- * Hopkins Lake Recreation Area is a real asset to the community.
- * Several spots on our street sidewalks are messy
- * not like to walk/visit local parks - too many sexual offenders. Have young children
- * Am afraid to walk in neighborhood because of loose running around dogs and drug traffic and partying. Have been approached and ask if wanted drugs and chased by dog.
- * Just look next door. Allowed house to be built on very small lot.
- * except one house has a lot of junk in their back yard.
- * our sidewalk has not been repaired yet.
- * there are almost no sidewalks on Pearce Street and my neighbors houses are trash piles with lawn issues
- * I would love to see more trees planted and safer sidewalks.
- * Assuming the old building west of the Woodard Lofts will be renovated.
- * not kept up

* Too many questions for 1 answer.

4. My neighborhood has a low incidence of crime and vandalism and we feel secure here.

- * We know there's been some crime, maybe drugs across street
- * Incidents with rental areas - need to lock things
- * A lot of vandalism with yard ornaments and tools (shovels) come up missing.
- * We have had vandeleism a lot
- * don't really know or relate too much to other than my own block - do not read the paper.
- * Been drug raids & park used for drugs
- * About 3 yrs. ago, children in our neighborhood damaged my pick-up in an amount over \$2,000.00 - too many teens walking in streets at 3-4 a.m.
- * All but one house on our block are owned, rather than rented. This probably makes the difference.
- * We've never experienced those problems.
- * car has been broken into as well as neighbors
- * We have experienced several acts of vandlism & theft & littering in our neighborhood - so has the Wesleyan church. Mostly done by teenagers.
- * Lot of stealing and drug in neighborhood
- * Have never been a victim
- * yard ornaments have been stolen and for sale signs
- * I'm wary to leave anything outside lest it is stolen, someone stole a lilac bush I had planted right out of the ground!
- * A few loud-mouthed punks!
- * We don't always know if there are incidences of vandalism but recently had a wreath stolen off the door in front of house.
- * our cars have been vandalized
- * To my knowledge
- * many rentals
- * Vandalism, kids poor parenting

5. I live in a sociable neighborhood where many know each other and sense support.

- * Regular area home owners are sociable.
- * Most get along.
- * no neighborhood is like it use to be
- * Most of must has lived here 15-30 years and more. We watch out for each other.
- * Just a few neighbors are good!
- * Most of our neighbors know of our problems in our area.
- * All but one house on our block are owned, rather than rented. This probably makes the difference.
- * I took the time to introduce self when moved in - lady walked away - rude. Would like to see block party.

- * Some of the neighbors do not hesitate to call the police if they witness vandalism.
- * There are too many dogs running around not chained up and a lot of drug traffic
- * After 30 years, I only know perm. residents. All the rest are rentals.
- * Mostly rental properties around me.
- * In 200 block only, further down in 300 block are rentals that have high turnover, and homes are run down.
- * It's not exactly sociable, but we do know each other & would most support each other

- * good ones and bad ones
- * Used to be, not so much anymore

6. Nuisances (barking dogs, glaring lights, junk/trash, parking in front yards, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, littering, burning, commercial vehicles, outside storage, noise and engine exhausts) are infrequent and not a problem.

- * Misc, outside storage, junk trash, barking damage
- * Rental properties; noise. Businesses lack appeal & clean up
- * Junk all the time, The house on Broadway they put trash out to the curb on Fri. Trash day is Tues. They burn all the time. Mattress in the yard all the time.
- * Barking dogs
- * Loud music by passing cars, cars speeding.
- * barking dogs, junk/trash, front yards, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, littering, burning, noise, engine
- * Loud thumping music in cars in neighborhood. Some back yards not mowed, trash piles in backyards.
- * burning of trash teenagers walking the streets late at night. They do not live in our block.
- * Barking dogs all day - early in a.m. (5:00)
- * Outdoor lights. Burn trash whenever they want too. Extremely loud wind chimes front porch looks awful.
- * barking dogs, weeds
- * Too many people burning smelly garbage "any day & night" that they want to. Excessive loud noise (music?) coming from cars. Our back yard sometimes is blue from the burning.
- * Garbage burning, speeding cars, un license cars etc. Who's enforcing the law.
- * No of cars at one dwelling
- * Junk/trash, parking, overcrowded dwellings, renters are not proud of home, never sleep - loud
- * Barking dogs!
- * Barking dogs, front yard parking, outside storage, noise (esp. traffic)
- * We smell burning often at night.
- * burning
- * Several of the homes in our neighborhood are rentals - they get run down & loud.
- * junk/trash
- * Burning done at all hours next door as they have fire pit and say it's OK to burn anytime. "Several" dogs in neighborhood are unlicensed.
- * Burning past the designated times
- * parking, overcrowded dwellings, weeds, outside storage, motorcycle noise
- * Dogs going in my yard - A lot of stray cats
- * barking dogs and the trash tires vehicles and other things just stacked up in the back yard like a junk yard.
- * burning - noise
- * Barking dogs & loud music (bass speakers) in cars
- * Barking dogs, Squealing tires, Boom Boxes, lights, & neighbors weeds and junk all over their yards.
- * junk and trash in neighbors yard, also has motorcycle parked in front yard (loud exhaust) garbage piles up and sits at the roadside for up to two weeks and some outside storage. All one neighbor.
- * Frequently overcrowded rental properties, lack of privacy and an excess of stray cats
- * At times a loud radio blaring from a car & some times a loud motorcycle
- * street traffic has increased and speed has been a factor
- * Next door neighbor right on top of my bedroom. Cars, snowblowers, lights, etc., dog.

- * in the blocks around
- * Burning & one certain neighbor continues to drain their pool top in my back yard every spring & floods my yard (Yes - I've made complaints)
- * Burning, barking dogs (particularly 1 neighbor)
- * burning barrels dog barking parking in st. all night
- * Fri-Sat. nite gambling Barking Dogs, Parking, Weeds, burning, Parking yards - Sidewalk Too many dogs. Some have 3-5 dogs - some raise dogs - Loud cars w/ steros.

7. Other issues such as quality of schools, city services (as in sewer, water, zoning, fire, police, streets, parks), housing affordability, employment, friends and family are equal or greater contributors to my choice (location) of residence.

- * Schools maintained & have good policies
- * Employment is major.
- * The school is alright if all the kids & People didn't hang out there and smoke & cuss.
- * Have junk around their homes cleaned up or ticket them. We keep our home 7-- Woodlawn neat & clean and so should everyone else. Some people in neighborhood have 3 dogs and they bark a lot 2 german shepherd & a lab. People tie their dogs out before they go to work & they bark all day.
- * Have relatives near and friends
- * Some kids are out on the streets at 10:00-11:00 at night. They are noisy and sometimes do minor vandalism such as TP'ing trees, breaking planter decorations, etc.
- * Have made many friends here, just too much wrong going on.
- * School, sm. store, dead end st.
- * Taxes too high, people losing homes to foreclosure.
- * We need better housing affordability
- * We searched for a house in Owosso, Corunna, Durand & Perry; and Owosso offered the best values.
- * We bought here because we liked the house.
- * The police always wave & smile as they drive through the neighborhood.
- * Have lived in neighborhood many years and growing up and raised kids in this neighborhood that used to be good and enjoyable then.
- * possible housing affordability
- * Public (street) parking needs
- * I agree because my family is in Owosso and I happen to be employed, otherwise, Owosso would not be a place to live due to unemployment and many homes in foreclosure.
- * My work is close

8. After reviewing your responses, please feel free to offer your ideas on what can be done to make your neighborhood a "Neighborhood of Choice".

- * Stop light at Stewart and Washington
- * Clean up the 1225 track area for parking and appearances possiby picnic tables etc. City should prresent the area in a clean, pleasing way for tourists & residents. City property high weeds (against city codes) unsightly brush & garbage people "hanging"out in the weeds - scare kids & walkers. entire street length to the track is unsightly. Should be made into parking for train events along Howard Street. Clean up needed.

- * We do not have central air, we can not leave our windows open. They even burn at 1:30 a.m. I would have liked more than a 3 day notice of the meeting. They have a pit bull dog. A lot of the time dog is not on a chain. It goes all over. The house is a rental, but I think that rentals should have to be kept clean. Please check in to this house. Several streets have cars parked on them all night.
- * Not sure why I got this letter. I li
- * Police patrol car cruising and watching for these more often. Animal Control involved more than weekdays. Most people work same hours and like to enjoy weekends without BARKING DOGS "ALL WEEKEND" and evenings. Plus the smell of raw garbage burning at night.
- * Have kids not playing football & basketball in the street and hitting houses with ball and running on peoples yards.
- * I feel it would be difficult as the neighborhood has many elderly families or low income that wouldn't be improving their homes/yards. I do like to walk and there are no sidewalks on either side of the waterworks or behind the football field (north side endzone) that would improve my walkability around the city.
- * Enforce the city ordinance, when seen by authorities, not have to call and complain and no ever shows up!! We see police cars drive by and they have to be blind not to see what is going on. Justice may be blind, but police officers and other authoritiis should NOT be!!!
- * Have school children to quit screaming when they go to school in the a.m. & quit throwing candy/food wrappers & bags all over. Get people to send out their trash like most of us do. Get the drivers & bikers (bicycle riders) to stop at the stop signs. With the high deductable rates of insurance companies, you can't get stolen property replaced. I also believe inside cats should not need to be licensed. Most cats let out are those cats people leave behind when they move out of area. Burning in our area makes our homes & back yards smell like a garbage landfill & very smelly & unhealthy.
- * Neighborhood fix up money made affordable to home owners, low int. Like they do for down town. Pass law to make land lords keep out side property cleaned up painted up etc. as well as home owners.
- * Get that lawn mowed in # 1
- * Hard to answer some questions. I'm alone now. My kids walked to school in the road. No sidewalks at the time.
- * Get rid of most of the rental properties. Rentels are not proud of their homes. Landlords will not put any mowol on the outside of their homes. Grand is a good example.
- * It's a pretty good neighborhood, other than the things I mentioned in 2B & 6. I don't suppose much can be done about traffic noise from 52, or the neighbor who suddenly acquired 3 outside dogs. But maybe strict controls on landlords would keep rental properties from reducing the quality of neighborhoods. Again, Hopkins Lake and the trails around it are wonderful. I appreciate that Baker College increased the sense of accessibility to it when the sidewalks were installed along Palmer. (the IGA near Hopkins lake had closed shortly before we bought our house, as I had thought. That would have been really nice. But at least the Baker College Welcome Center is attractive and also available for club use.
- * Enforce curfew for kids, enforce the barking dog policy, make the school keep grounds clean, double police patrol in the area.
- * A few of us take pride in how our homes look but a lot on our street don't seem to care - especially those folks who are renting.
- * Cleaning up area; more patrol. Investors to do something like Woodard Station. I think thats it. City officials to care more about this area not just the "richer" area of town.
- * You asked "How can we improve our community?" 1. JOBS! We need to increase our employment rate! 2. EDUCATION - RESD offers GEDS. Baker College offers free HS Diplomas even to adults. 3. Crack down on loitering after dark in neighborhoods.
- * Need to do something about the neighborhood drug problem and partying and loud car racing noises in neighborhood

- * I drive by and sometimes take my grandchildren to the skate park. There is a lot of litter where people park. If a trash barrel was in front that might help. Families go down there with big and little children. It would be nice to have swing or something the little children to do and also a few benches. When I walk my grandchildren down, I sit on the ground.
- * 1. There is a problem in the 500 block of Corunna Ave. (south side). There is a back yard drain which does not work, therefore for most of Spring & Summer, water if left standing. This creates a very bad mosquito problem. I have personally spoken to a Water Dept. employee but nothing has been done. I feel this is a real health hazard to this part of the neighborhood. 2. There is a new family which moved into apartment house (corner Huggins & Cor. Ave) which I have been told have 4 dogs & 14 cats. Most of the people who own pets in this area take good care of them. but we have a few who don't. I called the police last year on a unlicensed dog digging to get into my yard & the police didn't even check to see if he had a license. I told them he was unlicensed & had never had any shots but all they said was if he came back to call them & they would take them to Animal Control. I think when they have opportunity to check on license & rabies vaccine, it should be done then. Responsible pet owners make sure their animals are licensed & vaccinated. Check on Grand Avenue - there are dogs who have no license!! 3. Burning issue: Just because you put a ring (fire) in your back yard does that mean you have the right to burn anything anytime. I have a neighbor who burns late at night or any other time she feels like it. I have seen her burn furniture & all sorts of junk. But she says it's OK cause she has a fire pit. That is not a recreational fire when you can burn anything anytime you want!! 4. Thank you for reading the responses. I hope this area does improve. We are one of the main entrances into Owosso!! It should be neat & clean all the time.
- * Overall it is a fairly good neighborhood compared to some of the other neighborhoods in time - Neither is the crime as high as in some - There is some but not to the extent we are afraid- But it would be nice to have the police patrol around the neighborhood occasionally - at night- from midnight on-
- * City ordinances be enforced
- * Police patrol the area more and three dogs in a small kennel one chained up in side wich I believe is very crazy it could hang it's self.
- * Make people clean up their yards, Enforcing dog Barking ordinance, Putting in trees across the street at Apts to stop lights and noise. Jack Davis was made aware of these problems when he was in office and tried his best to get it corrected.
- * Just try to be considerate to neighbors. Not everyone has the same likes & dislikes.
- * Collamer Park could use play equipment for kids. It's upsetting when someone drives on yard and tears it up. People let dogs crap all over yard & leaves it there.
- * police action. Ticket, tow vehicle parked over-night. Ticket for not keeping lawn mowed and trash pick up regularly.
- * I would love to see a cat-leash law enacted and enforced. I have too many stray cats where I live, they are a nuisance and a health concern. I would also love to see more trees planted. A program to encourage home beautification.
- * Strongly feel the street lighting needs to be increased. Far too many dark spots on the side streets (e.g.: only 1 light on Fletcher between Cedar & M-52). Invitation for criminal activity.
- * Hurry up with new flood plane maps so we can stop wasting nearly \$300 per year on flood insurance.
- * Rentals in 300 block need to be cleaned up. Speed needs to be reduced on street, motorcycles are speeding, as well. Dangerous for children and adults.
- * Eliminate burning
- * Make a neighborhood association where conditions are monitored & enforced. Slum Lords should have to keep up the appearance of their buildings
- * It is a fair neighborhood except for the one, non-compliant, rude neighbors. There is a ball field at Division & Harper St. that might get more use if it had an actual ball diamond put on it. That may make the ball field more enjoyable. Thank you.

- * there are five burning barrels in my site in back yard and all violators, smoke rolling burning thrash ect. At this writing dog barking next door. How can I report a nieghbor that is otherwise a good one? If you do your the bad guy. I lived here for 57 years; it was a nice place a few years ago Broadway Ave.
- * Inforce building codes - city ordinances
- * Support to maintain residences as single family homes. Stress the advantage of location, close to Baker College, SSR, soccer fields, river walk, and golf course. Emphasis on city park improvements and beautification efforts. Offer low-cost loans to neighborhood residents to assist them in needed improvements and increase energy efficiency. Create activities in each quadrant of the city to encourage residents to support their local neighborhood, such as block parties, city park activities, etc.