



ODIN RENEWAL AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



FINAL REPORT- 3/20/23

ORDC -- Odin Community Needs Survey

Community Needs Assessment
of the Village of Odin and Odin Township
by Odin Renewal and Development Committee

1. Overview

Community Needs are the gaps between the services *that exist* for a community and the services that the community *feels should exist*. An *assessment* is the written review of what is available in that community, the demographics and the opinions of the people who live in the community.

The information in this report was gathered by the Odin Renewal and Development Committee (ORDC) Board during January 2023. As a new non-profit corporation, the ORDC board members felt the need to do this assessment in order to better understand the needs of the people who live in Odin Village and Odin Township. ORDC goals and projects for 2023 and beyond will be focused on the issues discovered during the needs assessment.

2. Information Gathering

The data and statistics we present here was gathered from online searches and U.S. census data, 1:1 discussion with the people of Odin and online surveys. Copies of the survey were left at Odin Village Hall and Marion County Courthouse. Surveys were shared through individual Facebook pages and through word-of-mouth sharing. All survey responses were confidential and will be deleted when the report is completed. The sources for data in this report are from the 2020 US Census unless otherwise stated.

This assessment reveals the most pressing concerns of the population and it will allow the ORDC and others to develop better partnerships and programs for Odin. The data will help us make well-informed decisions in the future and celebrate the success of past projects.

3. Participation

The seven ORDC board members are: Marilyn Gimbel, Bruce Hubbell, Sheri Uchitjil, Cheryl Soulon, Vicki Vaughn, Annette Schiro and Linda Williams. The ORDC board members collected these data, designed the survey and wrote the report. The report will be uploaded to the website www.Odinishome.com and to the Facebook group page Odin is Home. Copies will be given to the Odin Village and Odin Township offices as well as anyone who asks for a hard copy.

4. Strengths and Limitations of the Needs Assessment

There was a very good response to the online surveys --73 surveys were completed. Many people gave detailed written ideas for areas that need improvement. We heard about specific things that people wish Odin could do better. Several written responses explained why they love the village of Odin and feel safe here.

The strength of our partnerships with the Odin Schools, churches and village board have made this assessment as accurate as possible. As with any assessment, there is a 10% margin of error. The limitations of this assessment are that surveys were only done online and in-person discussions were held with only a few Odin residents due to time constraints. We opted not to do focus groups, phone interviews or mailed surveys due to limited funds, limited personnel to do the assessment, bad weather and the restraints in place for Covid 19. A few people chose N/A when answering questions so the totals will not always add up to 73.

5. Odin Village and Odin Township Data

The Village of Odin was settled in 1827 and incorporated in 1850. The village is in the eastern part of Odin Township and the village is bisected from east to west by US Route 50. Land area is 39.1 square miles. Population density is 57 people per square mile (*very low compared to Illinois and US data*).

The zip code for Odin is 62870. When 62870 is compared to the state average, the following data stands out:

- 62870 median house value (\$69,200) is significantly below state average of \$209,200.

- 62870 Hispanic and Black race population percentage is significantly below state average.
- 62870 Median age (45.6 years) is above state average (38.6 years).
- 62870 Renting percentage is below state average.
- 62870 Number of college students is below state average.
- 62870 Percentage of population with a 4 year degree or higher is significantly below state average.
- 62870 has 18 registered sex offenders.
- 62870 has family households (48.7%) higher than Illinois average (45.8).

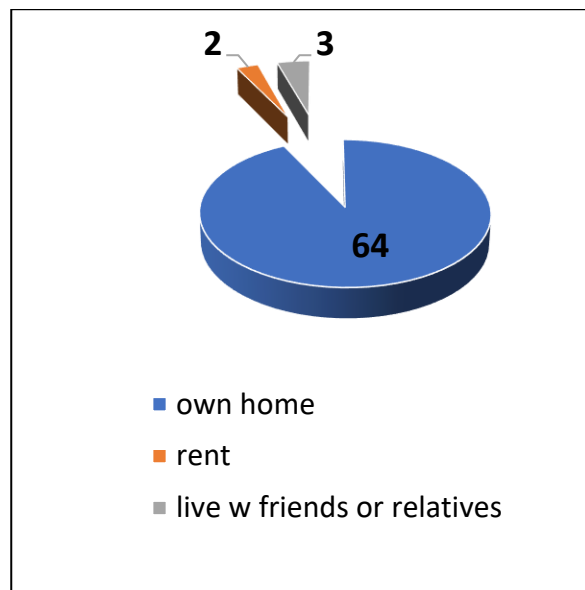
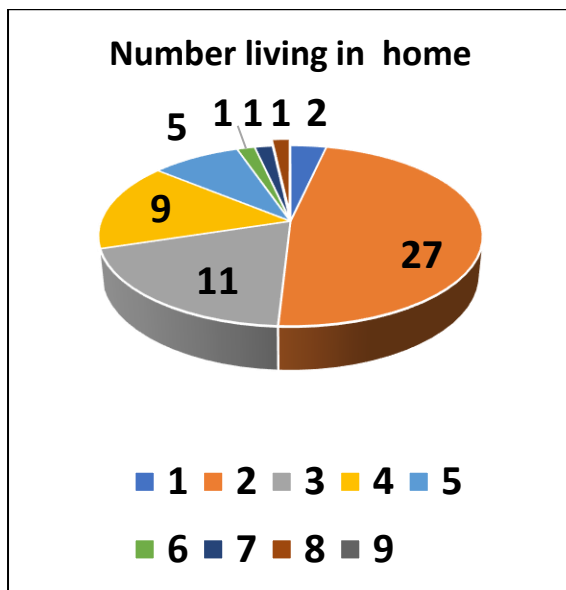
A. Businesses and organizations within the boundaries of the Village and Township:

- Fire Department
- City Hall
- Township Hall
- Auto dealers
- Ambulance/EMS
- ATM
- Beauty salons
- Café
- Churches
- Convenience store/gas station
- Farms
- Gift shops
- Waste management/trash collection
- Monument company
- Funeral home
- Decorating contractors
- Home repair contractors
- Police
- Post office/mail delivery
- Elementary and High School
- Septic tank contractor
- Household and commercial storage
- Apartment complexes
- Low-income county housing
- Swimming pool dealership
- Taxidermy
- Internet/telephone provider
- Tool and die
- Auction services
- Food pantry
- Cake bakers
- Cemetery
- Water/utility company
- Real estate brokers
- Oil and gas corporation
- Lumber and building supply
- Long-term care and rehabilitation
- Upholsterers
- Dog grooming
- Surveyors
- Internet provider
- Resale stores
- Automotive repair
- Electronics recycling

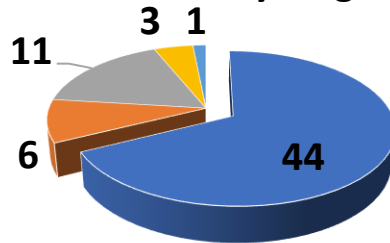
B. Recreation and social opportunities in 62870:

- Odin Firemen’s Picnic and Fireworks
- Santa’s workshop and Christmas lights
- 5K Goose Creek Run
- City Hall has a rental space
- School sporting events
- School events and celebrations
- Yard sales
- Electronics recycling bi-annually
- Memorial garden
- City Park with baseball, softball, T-ball
- Walking track at City Park
- Playground equipment and picnic area at park
- Church activities

C. Survey responses

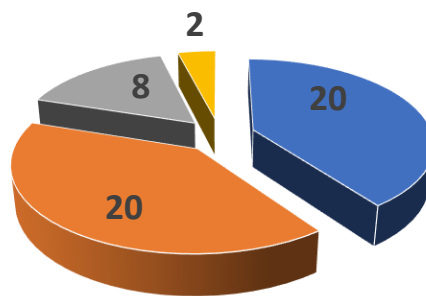


How do you hear about community events like recycling?



■ facebook ■ neighbors ■ sign on highway ■ radio ■ newspaper

Is anyone in your home...



■ under age 18 ■ retired ■ disabled ■ out of work

Other answers to survey questions:

- *Do you feel safe in your home? 52 answered yes, one answered no*
- *Do you feel lonely or want to connect with people more? Would you attend any of these events if ORDC sponsored them?*
 - *City-wide yard sales? 15 answered yes*
 - *Work in a free community vegetable garden? 9 answered yes*
 - *Work with high school students on projects that benefit the community? 15 answered yes*
 - *Monthly pot luck dinners for socializing? 10 answered yes*
 - *Volunteer at recycling events? 7 answered yes*

Written comments by Odin residents:

Question 1. What is your biggest concern about living in Odin?

- People with trashed yards
- How clean up week is held! Should be city workers pick up roadside location as dumpster gets filled within hours! If offered monthly on a certain day maybe more cleanup could happen around Odin!
- Not enough for kids
- Being safe
- Drug problem seems to be increasing
- Alcohol sales and future gambling. Lack of class opportunities in HS.
- Rising crime and drug issues
- The board trying to promote liquor and gambling
- Crime
- DONT WANT OUR TOWN TO LOOK DUMPY
- Very poor internet and cell phone service
- High poverty
- Old houses that need to be torn down
- School closing (consolidating)
- The thieves
- Old dangerous buildings
- No effort for growth
- Poor drainage
- No reliable police force
- Ran down abandoned homes and properties
- Speeding kids
- The school
- Getting kids what they need
- Employees and tax dollars not being put to use for village improvements.
- Shrinking population
- Preservation of Odin's history as a "sleepy" and safe community
- No grocery and since Casey's now focuses on liquor I have to drive to Salem or Centralia
- I grew up in Odin, left for college and moved back in my 30's to be near aging family members. I moved to North Carolina in 2017 after my husband died and I couldn't find work in Salem or Centralia. Odin has regressed since I moved away. It's terrible that the library was closed.
- The people that work for the city don't take their job seriously, alot have them have been caught sleeping out at the park, while they could be filling In potholes or cleaning out ditches cause the roads flood ove

Other comments written on the survey:

- Wish they never passed the liquor license
- Better street lights
- My residence is well lit and we watch out for each other. Due to substandard rental properties around town, crime seems to originate in those areas. Therefore we are all potential victims.
- People always flying up and down the main road. The volunteer firemen are some of the worst. I understand the urgency but you are putting other lives at risk breaking the law flying down the road with no lights.
- The thieves and crackheads are everywhere.
- I have good neighbors.
- Lack of community outreach in the churches
- We don't need a tavern or gambling. Would like to see more for the kids to do in the summer months. For older folks have county band or bingo at the park or school. Have street craft fair.
- My main concern is the very poor internet and phone service. With raising kids now days I feel internet is very important.
- I want to see the library reopened. We worked hard as the original ORDC to get it up and running. The Centralia library director then wanted the tax money that is being a branch would bring in but did everything they could to sabotage the Odin Library. I will be coming into some money in a few months and will put forth the money to get the library in Odin reopened. Sandoval did it, Odin can do it too.
- People need to start caring more about each other and helping not be trashing everyone. Get reliable people for the school.
- Would like to have a Dollar General store.
- I feel like the town council focus is on how they can profit rather than helping the community. Population severely declined in past 10 yrs. Too many abandoned buildings and EPA issues.
- Why doesn't dollar store build in Odin? Even dix and iuka has one. We are a village of 1200
- I am concerned about meeting the needs of the poor and those who are suffering personal hardships. How can the churches be more proactive?
- Symbols of hate, like flags with nazi signs and banners saying f*** Biden etc our neighbors have these.
- We need a Dollar General Store in Odin
- Keep up the good work.
- More opportunities to socialize.
- My only concern is the possibility of gambling facilities along with taverns in Odin

6. Evaluation

We took the information obtained and sorted it into categories.

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Can ORDC impact this? NO. Beyond the scope of our mission | ORDC PROJECT ongoing | Consider as ORDC PROJECT for 2023 |
|--|----------------------------|---|

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|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Trashed yards | Cleanup week | Garden upkeep | Opportunities to socialize |
| Not enough for kids | safety | 5K Goose Creek Classic | Better street lights |
| Drugs, crime, police | Dangerous buildings | Santa workshop and Christmas lights at garden | Street fair or events for older people |
| Alcohol use | Effort for growth of village | Electronic recycling | More opportunities to socialize |
| Poor internet phone | Speeding through town | Goose Creek Festival in fall | |
| High poverty | Village improvement | | |
| Poor drainage | Preserving safe sleepy community | | |
| City employees | No grocery | | |
| Gambling and taverns | Reopen library | | |
| EPA issues | Community outreach in churches | | |
| Meet the needs of the poor | Hate symbols in town | | |

7. Final analysis

The ORDC board met in February 2023 to review these data and discuss possible new projects based upon the community needs. The following goals were set:

Goal 1. Continue the electronics recycling project to run in the spring and fall. Dates will be determined by the ORDC board and the events will be widely announced.

- *Consider purchasing a lighted sign which would be placed at the Hubbell Warehouse to advertise ORDC events.*
- *Consider the cost/benefit of expanding the recycling effort in Odin. Plans are to write for grants and consider incorporating a monthly drop off site at the Hubbell warehouse to include paper, plastics and*

other materials that could be taken by the ORDC to the Centralia recycling drop off. This expansion will only be possible if grant funds are obtained. This expansion would meet several community concerns that were noted in the survey.

Goal 2. Continue to sponsor the Goose Creek Classic 5K run. The ORDC will work closely with the Odin Fire Department to ensure that the run does not interfere with the Fireman's picnic since both will be on the same weekend.

Goal 3. Continue to work with the Odin community members and partners to expand and improve the Memorial Garden.

Goal 4. Continue to sponsor the Christmas lights at the Memorial Garden and the Santa Workshop activities as carried out in 2022.

- *Consider lighting and signage improvements in 2023. Try to obtain clean energy grant funds to install lights in and around the garden. Refurbish the old lamp posts stored at the warehouse and install them in the garden if grant funds are obtained. Install signs that will inform the public of the use of the Memorial Garden.*

Continue to Sponsor the Goose Creek Festival in the fall. Expand the event by including more vendors and increasing the advertising. Encourage more seniors to attend this social event.

- *Consider holding events that would encourage socialization for those that are lonely and need more human interaction.*
- *Consider ways to increase volunteerism for ORDC events and meetings.*

The board voted to publish the report to the community and partners before the end of March. The report will be available on the website and the ORDC Facebook page. Hard copies will be distributed to those on the ORDC partners list.

****Closing note***

This report is not all-inclusive and it should not be used to guide policy or political agendas. This report was completed solely to help the ORDC board better understand the concerns of the Odin community and to guide them in setting goals. Any comments or concerns about this report should be made directly to the ORDC board members through the emails listed on the www.odinhome.org website.

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