

**SURVEY RESPONDENT #119**

**Q13a: What kind of community do you want to live in?**

A: progressive, convenient and interesting

**Q13b: Why is that type of community important to you?**

A: because I believe in people first, want convenience and like variety

**Q13c: How is your ideal community different from how you see things now?**

A: There is no community in fluvanna and there never has been. Fluvanna is scattered. There's no center to it. You have a hodge podge of areas that go in different directions. There's an area centered around Scottsville, another around the Lake, a bit around Kents Store, Palmyra and Fork Union but these are small. Probably there's a Zion Crossroads community now.

For the most part, Fluvanna is a drive in and drive out type of place. People buy a home here because it's cheaper to live here but their lives are centered around Charlottesville or Richmond. If you want to do anything,--- shop/amusement/work, you go to one of those areas.

Local shopping is overpriced, inefficient and primarily a hobby as far as I can see. Services are beyond bad. You can not get a carpenter for love nor money. When you do find one they are usually bad. Most people who really want a job done get people to come from Charlottesville. I have good luck hiring people from Buckingham.

There's very little to do here. I drive 4 hrs to hike once a week. Once you have done Pleasant Grove, you've done it and the trails there are boring. There's nothing else there except sports fields.

The library has few books. Anyone who really wants to read uses the Charlottesville library system even though we have to pay for it. Others just buy their books. I do both.

There is no paper here, no way for people to know what goes on here, who died, what opened, anything. To be honest, a lot of people don't care what goes on here. They just automatically go to Charlottesville, Scottsville or Richmond.

There's no way to meet people here other than in your neighborhood and that's just if people walk a lot like they do where I live. There's no where for people to gather or events for them to gather to. The few things held here are run by the same organizations, manned by the same people, with the same booths and such, over and over. The people at the Board of Supervisors's meetings are the same people at the Historical Society, garden club, library club, this and that commission, Fluvanna Day, on and on. Fluvanna needs events that attract more than old white people and I'm an old white person but I'm tired of just seeing other old white people. I spent Wed in Richmond around Short Pump and it was fun talking to all kinds of people. That area has become very international.

**Q13d: What are some things that need to change to create the kind of community you'd like?**

**A:** To bring Fluvanna under the same tent, it needs to include everyone. Right now the only thing that comes close is child oriented services----schools, recreation, etc. I see dubs and dabs of this and that but they are usually just that, absolutely nothing anyone is interested in.

Take the recreation program for instance. I have neighbors who teach interesting things and take classes but in Charlottesville, Richmond and Buckingham. There are subjects that people besides children are interested in. To be honest, the recreation program here was more interesting about 20 years ago.

The library needs to do something to interest more people. The new book selection is beyond bad. I mean, really, how many cookbooks does one library need? The world is going to hell and they order more cookbooks. There are very few books on social issues and for that matter, someone keeps ordering Republican oriented books on those topics. The movies are fine if you are 16. I am assuming they are all gifted to the library but if not, there are great international movies out there. On top of that, the library has a problem with their machines. I can't remember the amount of times they have not checked in one of my books properly so I get grief about an overdue book that is sitting on the shelf because someone didn't check it in. That has never ever happened to me with my Charlottesville books. Ever. The library also needs to have classes to teach seniors how to use machines since libraries are all going in the direction of machines----e books, e magazines. No one I know knows how to download things now that libraries are closed.

Fluvanna needs decent computer connections. My neighborhood uses a combination of connections, none that great. I heard complaints about not being able to do this and that because of poor connections just today. One guy couldn't teach on line because of his poor connection. Another woman who has a job with a big national construction company can't do the zoom stuff with her staff and we are talking about a company that does really big projects. Another woman can't get a good connection to sell her artwork. People out here want to connect to the world but that's not going to happen.

I don't know what you do about shopping in Fluvanna. The population isn't here for big stores and there's no way these small places are ever going to compete with big chains so everyone is just going to keep going to Charlottesville or Richmond. That's just how it is. The Dollar stores have come closer than anyone to solving the problem but then again, they are a chain. Most local stores come about because someone always wanted to have a \_\_\_\_\_ store. They have a dream but that's all. Then they get a few dollars together, rent a place in some stupid location with no parking, stock it with overpriced stuff that no one wants because they like it, hire their lazy relatives, close when they want to take off, then ignore patrons who come in. Honest to God, I've stood waiting for someone to take my money while they gossiped with friends, talked on the phone, swept the floor, you name it. Once I finally went outside, found the owner's husband and got him to take care of what I wanted. Then the fools go under, whine about no one supporting them and the local small business organization runs ads saying Buy

Local. What they really need to do is run ads that say "sell what people want at a decent price, stay open and wait on people."

Services out here are just as bad as shops. I tried to get my hair cut in an empty shop and was turned down because I didn't have an appointment. This happened at two different places. No one was in either place. The owners were just sitting around. Try to get something fixed out here. If the people show up, they half do a job and disappear. You would not believe how many people do not show up though. If I were going to go into business in Fluvanna, I would choose a service industry because there is a need here for professionals who can fix and do things. That's a real problem in this area.

There is no communication in Fluvanna. Someone needs to start a Fluvanna County News Website, something that doesn't rely on advertising or the government. It needs to list everything, ---obituaries, births, weddings, social events, happenings, "news around Kents Store, Columbia, etc" . It should be like the old time newspapers and there should be an internet version and a hard copy version.

Fluvanna needs a town. At this point it seems to be Lake Monticello but businesses come and go there just like elsewhere. Also government buildings aren't there. The closest thing to a town possibility is Palmyra because it's in the center, has Pleasant Grove land and government buildings. Buildings are already easing into Pleasant Grove so I would continue that. I'd encourage some developer to buy all of that land across from Pleasant Grove and put in a huge subdivision with a variety of priced homes and an apartment complex. I'd also get the county to buy the land across from the Thomas grocery store for a recreation extension with picnic shelters, tables, swing sets, horseshoe pits, etc for small recreational activities. Then I'd build a recreation dept, YMCA or something of that sort on the knoll there. I'd do more with the arts at Pleasant Grove and encourage events there. For instance, there could be concerts there, fundraising events, big art and craft shows, those kinds of things. Most nonprofits need to raise money with their walk a thons, dog walking events, marathons, this and that shows. I'd encourage them to use Pleasant Grove. Let them use it for free. You want people to come there. The most interesting event that I've seen in Fluvanna in a long time was the free rabies clinic. It brought a lot of people together I noticed. All I see going on at Pleasant Grove are these fairs which have the same people and the same things. You want to bring in everyone. Fluvanna needs to think beyond the Historical Society and Lake Monticello types. I see the outdoor oriented logo that you are now using but I don't see anything behind it. You've got a 1000 acre park at Pleasant Grove, use it. Consider it part of your town. Get events in there where people do things beside mess with balls. Quit cramming it with old tractors twice a year.

I would encourage a wider variety of people, especially younger people, to get involved in the county. As it is now, all organizations are comprised of the same handful of people. Part of that is due to the fact that no one knows what goes on here. To be

honest, a whole lot of people don't care what goes on here. We are here because it is cheap, we are settled, the kids are nearby, that sort of thing. We eat and sleep here but we hit the road to go to work, to shop, to eat out, etc. Local events are boring, local government is stale. Fluvanna is just dull. It has no image, no definition, no nothing.

Fluvanna needs to think beyond business development. The only concern seems to be with developing Zion Crossroads. There is more to a county than business. If you want an area to grow, you need for people to want to go there. The days of people going to wherever because there's a big mall and such are over. Stores are failing and they were failing way before the virus hit. People shop but they do it online. Now people go places for events. This is Friday night. One neighbor has gone to town to eat with friends. Another went to her book group meeting in Charlottesville. Another couple went to Charlottesville to get the car's oil changed and to shop for groceries. Usually they go to movies in Goochland. Not only did these people leave the county, they spent money elsewhere. If the business community wants people to shop here, they better think of ways to keep them here. I go to a vet in Buckingham. While I'm down there I stop at all the little stores in Dilywnn. I go hiking in Nelson usually weekly and while I'm there I stop in at the little apple places and antique shops. They are great places to buy gifts. I used to go to the Charlottesville library about twice a month before the shut down and while I was there, I shopped the downtown mall, got groceries, hit an art exhibit, stopped at the bookstore and outdoor shop, etc. This is what everyone I know does.

Nelson County is an interesting place. For a small place they have a lot of interesting events, businesses, communities and services. Everything is centered around two places, Wintergreen and Lovingston. They have a lot of trails, are part of the Charlottesville library system, have interesting businesses, have a huge farmer's market and they have a young attitude although the population isn't especially that young. It's just the attitude. Needless to say, I'm keeping my eyes open for property while I travel back and forth. (I'm not the only person thinking beyond Fluvanna by the way. Practically everyone on my road has their eye open for another place. Very few people are devoted to this county. It's where we are now. Fluvanna is just not the type of place that you get attached to)