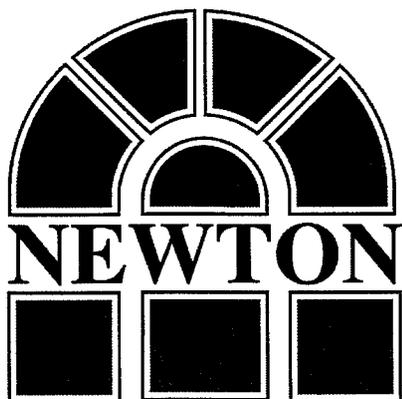


2001



City of Newton



United Way
of Newton

NEWTON COMMUNITY ATTITUDE SURVEY

conducted by:
City of Newton & United Way of Newton

in cooperation with:
Community Development – Data Information & Analysis Laboratory
Iowa State University Extension

I. COMMUNITY IMAGE

A. How do you rate Newton as a place to live? To answer this question, please read the statements below and indicate whether you AGREE or DISAGREE with each by circling the appropriate number. Note that some of the questions are stated as positive statements while others are negatively worded, so be sure to read EACH statement carefully.

	<u>STRONGLY DISAGREE</u>	<u>DISAGREE</u>	<u>AGREE</u>	<u>STRONGLY AGREE</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
1. Newton is a friendly place in which to live (n=195).....	1%	4%	67%	28%	0%
2. Residents actively participate in local community affairs (n=193)	1%	16%	61%	14%	8%
3. Newton does a poor job of planning ahead for the future (n=191).....	7%	52%	22%	8%	11%
4. I feel safe living in Newton (n=193).....	2%	3%	54%	40%	1%
5. The general appearance of Newton is attractive (n=191).....	1%	10%	68%	20%	1%
6. The economic outlook for Newton appears bright (n=191)	6%	43%	33%	2%	16%
7. People in Newton speak well about this community (n=193) ..	1%	17%	71%	8%	3%
8. People living in Newton are willing to accept people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds (n=192)	7%	23%	53%	4%	13%
9. People in Newton are willing to accept people from all economic backgrounds (n=191)	4%	27%	57%	2%	10%
10. People in Newton show little pride in their community (n=193).....	23%	59%	11%	4%	3%
11. Newton's city government effectively deals with community problems (n=192)...	5%	26%	54%	5%	10%
12. Newton discourages citizens from getting involved in community affairs (n=195)	20%	63%	8%	3%	6%
13. Overall, Newton has a good quality of life (n=196).....	1%	6%	65%	26%	2%

B. Based on personal experience or observation over the past 12 months, please indicate your overall opinion of each of the following services. If you have no basis for rating a service, please indicate by circling "5" under DON'T KNOW.

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>EXCELLENT</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
1. Police (n=194)	5%	15%	52%	17%	11%
2. Animal control (n=195)	5%	13%	39%	19%	24%
3. Fire & ambulance (n=192).....	0%	2%	41%	43%	14%
4. Snow removal (n=194)	9%	21%	49%	17%	4%
5. Street repairs (n=195)	10%	33%	47%	7%	3%
6. Street sweeping (n=194)	3%	20%	57%	16%	4%
7. Nuisance enforcement (junk cars, garbage, weeds, etc.) (n=195).....	20%	32%	35%	5%	8%
8. Landfill operations (n=193).....	2%	8%	45%	20%	25%
9. Traffic signals & signs (n=196).....	5%	13%	65%	14%	3%
10. Sanitary sewers (n=194)	2%	7%	56%	17%	18%
11. Garbage collection (n=195)	3%	8%	48%	40%	1%
12. Curbside recycling collection (n=195) .	4%	7%	49%	38%	2%
13. Water (n=195).....	1%	6%	47%	41%	5%
14. Park facilities (n=106)	1%	3%	39%	54%	3%
15. Library (n=195).....	0%	4%	32%	55%	9%
16. Airport (n=194).....	1%	3%	29%	11%	56%
17. Retired Senior Volunteer Program/ Jasper County Volunteer Program (n=194).....	1%	3%	29%	25%	42%
18. Westwood Golf Course (n=195).....	2%	6%	22%	19%	51%
19. City Hall/Administration (n=195)	6%	14%	44%	8%	28%
20. Building permits and inspections (n=194)	3%	16%	25%	5%	51%
21. Planning and zoning administration (n=194).....	5%	18%	20%	6%	51%
22. Other (specify) _____ _____ (n=36)	28%	3%	11%	6%	52%

Other opinion of services

Taking care of little league fields east of town by park people!

No place to shop and no good family restaurants.

I live on the edge of town and have a wheeled rack for garbage and recycle bins. They're too lazy to place the container back in the rack, and if they blow away, they charge you \$800 for a new bin.

Garbage collection needs to pick up all garbage not just 3 bags to cut down on litter and illegal dumping.

Need more stop signs on side streets.

Other opinion of services (cont.)

- Lack of production manufacturing sought out for city.
- Clean up junk on private properties.
- Bike trails
- Commercial and retail offerings in Newton besides Wal-Mart.
- Community Development Project Awake.
- Streets are poorly marked.
- Public transportation
- Treat everybody equal. If you have money, you are above the rest of the people.

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C. Overall, the city services available in Newton are satisfactory? (n=174)

- 1. STRONGLY DISAGREE 1%
- 2. DISAGREE 6%
- 3. AGREE 77%
- 4. STRONGLY AGREE 13%
- 5. DON'T KNOW 3%

II. GOVERNMENTAL SPENDING

A. Please circle the number to indicate whether you feel MORE, LESS or the SAME amount of money should be spent for each of the following services. Please keep in mind that an increase in one area may require either a reduction in another area or an increase in taxes or fees.

	<u>SPEND LESS</u>	<u>SPEND SAME</u>	<u>SPEND MORE</u>
1. Enforcement of traffic laws (n=191).....	11%	81%	8%
2. Enforcement of drug and alcohol violations (n=189).....	5%	53%	42%
3. Investigation of crimes against property (n=191).....	2%	72%	26%
4. Investigation of crimes against persons (n=191).....	2%	68%	30%
5. D.A.R.E., School Resource Officer, Citizen Police Academy and other community policing initiatives (n=190).....	17%	62%	21%
6. Animal control (n=191).....	10%	83%	7%
7. Enforcement of property maintenance standards such as junk cars, junk accumulation, building conditions, weeds, etc (n=190).....	11%	57%	32%
8. Fire fighting (n=190).....	2%	80%	18%
9. Fire prevention programs (n=187).....	7%	81%	12%
10. Ambulance services (n=190).....	3%	88%	9%
11. Street repairs (n=190).....	1%	69%	30%
12. Snow removal (n=190).....	1%	77%	22%
13. Street sweeping (n=188).....	14%	80%	6%
14. Construction of sidewalks and walkways (n=187).....	11%	68%	21%
15. Sanitary sewer system (n=186).....	3%	93%	4%
16. Street drainage system (n=187).....	1%	85%	14%
17. Traffic control (placement and numbers of stop signs/lights) (n=188).....	11%	76%	13%
18. Landfill operations (n=187).....	4%	94%	2%
19. Maintenance of Westwood Golf Course (n=188).....	38%	54%	8%

A. Continued

	<u>SPEND LESS</u>	<u>SPEND SAME</u>	<u>SPEND MORE</u>
20. Garbage collection (n=190)	2%	95%	3%
21. Curbside recycling (n=189).....	6%	92%	2%
22. Water pressure (n=189).....	3%	90%	7%
23. Water quality (n=188).....	1%	87%	12%
24. Maintenance of public parks (n=190)	3%	85%	12%
25. Recreational programs for adults (n=189)	18%	66%	16%
26. Recreational programs for teens (n=190).....	8%	55%	37%
27. Summer and after-school recreational programs for children (n=188)	6%	55%	39%
28. Library (n=189).....	6%	81%	13%
29. Airport (n=188).....	17%	80%	3%
30. Volunteer programs in Newton (n=188)	8%	82%	10%
31. Economic development (n=188).....	7%	57%	36%

B. In order to improve the services you mentioned on the previous page as needing more spending, please rank the following methods of generating additional funds. Place a "1" alongside your most preferred choice, a "2" next to your second choice, a "3" alongside your third choice, and so on.

	<u>1st Choice</u>	<u>2nd Choice</u>	<u>3rd Choice</u>	<u>4th Choice</u>	<u>5th Choice</u>
Increase property taxes (n=118)	6%	10%	32%	48%	4%
Establish a local sales tax of one percent (n=128)	36%	27%	27%	9%	1%
Institute new fees for services such as residential garbage collection (n=122)	6%	44%	34%	13%	3%
Reduce or eliminate spending on other services (n=136)	59%	21%	8%	10%	2%
Other (specify) _____ (n=20)	40%	25%	25%	5%	5%

Other methods of generating additional funds

- Increased fines and community services for violators, perpetrators, and offenders.
- Didn't ask for any increases, just inflationary adjustments.
- Increase user fees from golf courses, etc.
- Spend time getting stores to shop at other than Wal-Mart.
- Give the same tax breaks to everyone. Tax abatement is not fair.
- Attract more manufacturing for good jobs is the best.
- Eliminate things like going to conventions and seminars.
- Quit giving such outlandish raises.
- Not so much percentage wise in wage increases for city administrators.
- Leave as it is.
- Bring in more businesses to compensate for revenue.
- Reduce school spending.
- Reduce wages. Tax exempt property tax for fire and police protection. Too much property not taxed in Newton.

Other methods of generating additional funds (cont.)

- Larger fines toward (illegible).
- Get some bonds for city services.
- More efficiently for what we are spending now.
- Reduce labor costs.
- Increase business and population.
- Reduce school spending.
- Stop subsidizing Westwood Golf Course. Raise rates to cover expenses. Run it like a business.
- Need to reduce property taxes.
- Increase parking violation fines.
- Growth is going nowhere.

III. HOUSING

A. Please rate the following housing characteristics of Newton.

	<u>POOR</u>	<u>FAIR</u>	<u>GOOD</u>	<u>VERY GOOD</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
1. General condition and appearance of housing (n=190)	0%	14%	71%	14%	1%
2. Availability of housing for low-income families (n=196)	15%	30%	21%	10%	24%
3. Availability of housing for the elderly (n=193).....	17%	28%	23%	11%	21%
4. Availability of apartments and houses for rent (n=196)	9%	21%	36%	13%	21%
5. Availability of moderately priced houses for sale (n=196).....	14%	32%	30%	7%	17%
6. Availability of upscale houses for sale (n=194)	3%	12%	34%	32%	19%

B. What are your housing plans for the next three years? (n=190)

- 1. PURCHASE OR BUILD A NEW HOME IN NEWTON 5%
- 2. PURCHASE AN EXISTING HOME IN NEWTON 4%
- 3. MAJOR REMODELING OF PRESENT HOME 5%
- 4. MOVE FROM NEWTON 8%
- 5. OTHER (SPECIFY _____) 7%
- 6. NO PLANS FOR MAJOR CHANGE 71%

Other housing plans for the next three years

- Some moderate remodeling.
- Have new home
- Moderate remodeling on current home.
- Continue remodeling home.
- To find an apartment that isn't government controlled.
- Hope to sell house, difficult to do with the tax abatement we have.
- Just made major remodeling of present home.
- Moderate remodel
- Stay in same house.
- Move if taxes increase.
- Build in rural Newton.
- Tennessee
- Moderate remodeling
- Look for senior housing.
- Taxes are hurting people.
- Remove DARE

IV. CITY GOVERNMENT POLICIES

A. Currently, the Westwood Golf Course receives no property tax dollars. Please indicate whether you AGREE, DISAGREE, or DON'T CARE if tax dollars were used in the future to support the golf course for each of the following.

- 1. To help with operating expenses (n=188).....
- 2. To help with capital expenses (for instance, improvements for watering, purchase of mowers and other equipment) (n=183)

	<u>AGREE</u>	<u>DISAGREE</u>	<u>DON'T CARE</u>
	15%	63%	22%
	19%	58%	23%

A1. IF YOU AGREE WITH EITHER QUESTION: What percentage of the costs do you feel should be paid with tax dollars?

1. Operational costs _____% (n=28)	
0%	18%
3%	4%
5%	7%
10%	7%
20%	11%
25%	14%
33%	4%
50%	21%
60%	7%
75%	7%
2. Capital expenses _____% (n=31)	
0%	6%
1%	3%
2%	7%
5%	3%
10%	10%
15%	3%
20%	10%
25%	16%
40%	7%
50%	19%
75%	3%
100%	13%

B. In 2003, the City of Newton will be renegotiating the cable franchise with its cable provider. Do you currently purchase cable services? (n=192)

- 1. Yes 69%
- 2. No 31%

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B2. Why not? (Circle all that apply) (n=61)

- 1. Too costly 57%
- 2. Not enough channels 16%
- 3. Other (specify) _____ 61%

Other reason you do not purchase cable services

- I don't feel I need any more TV.
- Don't watch enough TV to justify the cost.
- Not enough good programming
- Satellite
- Other priorities
- Not interested
- With satellite I have better selections and it's more reasonably priced.
- High dollar package deals.
- Poor service
- More packages at lower costs
- Own dish
- Satellite
- Match satellite availability of shows.
- Need better programs than what they have.
- Too many duplicate programs.
- Don't watch that much TV.
- Have dish and Direct TV.
- Have dish
- All of the above
- Not available to homeowner.
- Poor service
- Don't care for TV.
- Too busy to watch TV that much.
- Not a good example for the children.
- Don't watch much TV and would rather read.
- Own satellite
- No interest
- Don't need
- Went to satellite system instead
- Don't watch
- No cable modems.

B1. I believe the current cable services in Newton are: (n=130)

- 1. Adequate 55%
- 2. Inadequate 45%

B3. What changes, if any, would you like to see? _____

Other changes you'd like to see in cable services

- Lower costs
- More channels for what it costs me.
- Add ESPN 2.
- I would like to see more channels offered; Newton does not receive a lot of stations that Des Moines receives. (We have digital cable.)
- Better service, more variety of channels.
- Need competition
- Cable goes off air, poor reception, need more channels, lower price
- More channels and variety.
- Different provider. Currently surrounding communities are receiving more channels for less money.
- New lines for improved receiving.
- More channels, less money.
- You need a choice of companies, just like buying bread.
- Pay less for services. It's bad reception and if you have a problem, you cannot reach them.
- Could be cheaper
- Local channel for sports, news,

Other reason you do not purchase cable cable services (cont.)

Dish Network
Do not have the time.
Don't need it.
Not enough time to watch.
Prefer to refrain from TV.
We got a dish.
Don't watch TV.
Basically additional ones desired.
All of the above.
Wouldn't use it enough to justify the expense.
Only one company. Smaller towns have a lot more options.
I use Direct TV.

Other changes you'd like to see in cable services (cont.)

community events, meetings, etc
Local radar.
Update wiring and add channels.
A choice
Too expensive for basic package.
Cable goes off almost every day. It's a rip-off.
Better selection of channels.
Too expensive for offering. Internet through cable for high speed.
More economical pricing.
More basic channels like the History channel.
A larger variety of channels.
Too much advertising. Some programs repeated often.
More stations, less news. Food network!
Full-time CMT channel.
Add Internet access.
We have poor reception.
Less money, more stations!
More channels like Chicago Sports or ESPN2.
Better reception
More channels, less cost!
ESPN2
Price drops
Some premium channels like ESPN2.
Costs too much.
No increase in rate. More channels like Cooking channel.
Internet and more channels. Better reception on local channels.
More channels, lower rate.
Include Fox Sports (Chicago Cubs)
That prices do raise.
Add History channel and ESPN2 to basic.
More channels in the basic.
More channels and lower cost.
Get the History channel.
More channels. Fine arts channel.
More channels.
More stations such as ESPN2 and Fox Sports Net.
More channels, Cubs games, Iowa sports, Internet access.
More channels. Ours are very poor.
More up-to-date movies and programs.
VH1 and more choice of packages.
More sports channels.
Get two or more companies for competition.
Better selection and more channels.

C. In negotiating a new cable television franchise agreement, please rank the following 5 issues based on their importance to you with a "1" alongside the "most important" issue and "5" next to the "least important" issue.

	<u>Most Important</u>	<u>2nd Most Important</u>	<u>3rd Most Important</u>	<u>4th Most Important</u>	<u>Least Important</u>
Cost (n=134)	72%	16%	8%	2%	2%
Number of channels (n=127)	13%	61%	15%	9%	2%
Internet access through cable system (n=124)	10%	8%	32%	40%	10%
Provision of public education and government stations (n=128)	7%	16%	37%	31%	9%
Other improvements to telecommunication infrastructure (specify) _____ _____ (n=76)	3%	0%	11%	25%	61%

Other improvements to telecommunication infrastructure

- Customer service
- Fiber optics
- Add ESPN 2.
- Get rid of all the body building ads on channel 2.
- Choice of companies to choose from.
- Local channel, local radar.
- Maybe the local phone company could provide cable access to eliminate the need for people to write more checks or worry about how the money is spent knowing it stays in Newton.
- Not interested in cable.
- Better reception
- Don't want it.
- Reliability
- Choice of provider.

D. Currently, parking in the downtown area is limited to two hours and not metered. Do you favor:
(n=192)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. MAINTAINING THE TIME LIMIT AND NO METERS | 58% |
| 2. ELIMINATING TIME LIMITS AND INSTALLING PARKING METERS AT ALL PARKING SPOTS | 10% |
| 3. UNDECIDED | 6% |
| 4. DON'T CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER | 20% |
| 5. OTHER (SPECIFY) _____ | 6% |

Other actions you favor toward downtown parking

Those who frequently have to be involved in court should be able to get a waiver for exceeding the 2-hour limit and pay ticket as it is beyond our control if court lasts longer than 2 hours.

- Free parking
- Eliminate time and meters.
- Eliminate time limits – no meters.
- Need to think of better options, not enough information.

Other actions you favor toward downtown parking (cont.)

- Eliminate time and meters.
- Needs to be reevaluated for employees downtown.
- Ticket all courthouse employees.
- Maintain time limits and add off street parking for downtown workers.
- To do some things downtown longer time is needed but meters will cause some people not to park downtown. It needs to be monitored.
- Time limit longer like 3 hours.
- Eliminate SOME time limits. Install meters at SOME spots.
- No meters and increase time limit to 3 hours.

E. Improvements to parking in the Downtown area are financed through revenues from parking fines. Do you favor: (n=193)

1. CONTINUING TO FINANCE PARKING IMPROVEMENTS WITH PARKING REVENUES AND NO PROPERTY TAX REVENUES	71%
2. FINANCING PARKING IMPROVEMENTS WITH GENERAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES	5%
3. UNDECIDED	10%
4. DON'T CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER	11%
5. OTHER (SPECIFY) _____	3%

Other financial actions you favor toward downtown parking

- Finance parking with business taxes. It is the downtown businesses that profit.
- Need business downtown to get people to shop.
- It appears there have been no improvements.

F. Please answer ONE of the two following questions that pertains to you:

F1. If you live in a single-family house, duplex, three-plex, or four-plex that has recycling service: How frequently do you use the City's recycling service? (n= 173)

1. WEEKLY	72%
2. ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS	13%
3. LESS THAN ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS	7%
4. NEVER	8%

F2. If you live in a five-plex or larger housing complex: Does your landlord provide a recycling service for your use? (n=10)

1. YES	40%
2. NO	40%
3. DON'T KNOW	20%

↓

F3. If yes, how frequently do you use it? (n=2)

1. WEEKLY	100%
2. ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS	0%
3. LESS THAN ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS	0%
4. NEVER	0%

G. Do you FAVOR or OPPOSE a sidewalk replacement program in Newton for existing sidewalks which have deteriorated? (n=190)

- 1. FAVOR 72%
- 2. OPPOSE 10%
- 3. UNDECIDED 18%

G1. When replacing deteriorated sidewalks, what percent of the total cost do you feel should be paid by the person owning the property? (The cost is \$30 per foot.) (n=133)

1. 100%	17%	4. 25%	17%
2. 75%	4%	5. 0%	31%
3. 50%	28%	6. OTHER _____%	3%

Other percentage of the cost should be paid for by the property owner:

- Ask the person if they can afford to donate any money toward it. 10%
- This price is ridiculously too high. 35%
- City should pay 10%
- This should be taken out of the property taxes. 35%

H. Do you own property in Newton with a sidewalk? (n=194)

- 1. YES 44%
- 2. NO 56%

H1. What is the condition of the sidewalk on your property? (n=87)

1. GOOD CONDITION	74%
2. FAIR CONDITION	25%
3. POOR CONDITION	1%

I. During the past 12 months, have you experienced backup of the sanitary sewer system into your home or business? (n=193)

- 1. YES, ONE TIME 6%
- 2. YES, MORE THAN ONE TIME 2%
- 3. NO 92%

J. During the past 12 months, have you experienced storm water flooding into your home or business? (n=193)

- 1. YES, ONE TIME 3%
- 2. YES, MORE THAN ONE TIME 7%
- 3. NO 90%

K. What is your PRIMARY source of information about City government? (Select one only.) (n=178)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. NEWSPAPERS | 59% |
| 2. RADIO STATIONS | 3% |
| 3. CITY NEWSLETTER (<u>CITY REPORT</u>) | 26% |
| 4. CITY WEB SITE | 0% |
| 5. LIBRARY | 0% |
| 6. CITY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES | 3% |
| 7. OTHER PEOPLE - FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS | 3% |
| 8. BROADCAST OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS | 2% |
| 9. OTHER _____ | 1% |
| 10. DON'T KNOW | 3% |

L. How often do you watch Newton City Council meetings on cable television (either live or on a tape-delayed basis)? (n=194)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. AT LEAST ONCE PER MONTH | 15% | 3. TWO - THREE TIMES PER YEAR | 14% |
| 2. ONCE EVERY TWO - THREE MONTHS | 12% | 4. NEVER | 59% |

M. Do you have access to the Internet either at home or at work? (n=194)

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 1. YES | 62% |
| 2. NO | 38% |

M1. My Internet access is through: (n=119)

1. Phone line	87%
2. Wireless service	5%
3. Cable services	1%
4. Dedicated telecommunication line (DSL, T-1, etc.)	7%

M2. I would prefer more options with faster Internet access. (n=111)

1. Agree	57%
2. Disagree	7%
3. Don't care	36%

N. During the past 12 months, have you or any member of your household had any direct contact by phone or in person with a city employee? (n=194)

- 1. YES 46%
- 2. NO 49%
- 3. DON'T KNOW 5%

N1. How SATISFIED or DISSATISFIED were you with the timeliness of their response? (n=92)

- 1. VERY SATISFIED 38%
- 2. SATISFIED 54%
- 3. DISSATISFIED 1%
- 4. VERY DISSATISFIED 7%

Please explain the reason for your dissatisfaction. _____

Reasons for dissatisfaction with response

- Was ignored by the police department and council.
- Building inspector doesn't volunteer anything. Made exceptions for some but not for others.
- Slow to respond and not very helpful.
- Attitude!
- Did not get through.

N2. How SATISFIED or DISSATISFIED were you with the courtesy of their response? (n=87)

- 1. VERY SATISFIED 39%
- 2. SATISFIED 51%
- 3. DISSATISFIED 7%
- 4. VERY DISSATISFIED 3%

Please explain the reason for your dissatisfaction. _____

Reasons for dissatisfaction with courtesy of response

- People answering phones are rude, especially the water department.
- My complaint was not addressed.
- Pompous
- Slow to respond and given poor answers.
- Attitude!
- Police officer was very rude when reporting a crime to my property.

N3. How SATISFIED or DISSATISFIED were you with the overall quality of their response? (n=88)

- 1. VERY SATISFIED 38%
- 2. SATISFIED 50%
- 3. DISSATISFIED 8%
- 4. VERY DISSATISFIED 4%

Please explain the reason for your dissatisfaction. _____

Dissatisfaction with the overall quality of response from city employees

- It seems that the Park Director seems to think the Little League should take care and spend our league money for improvement on ball field. I totally disagree! UNW is dropping Little League next year, this is going to effect over 500 girls and boys next summer and beyond!
- Person acted as if they didn't know how to answer.
- My complaint was not addressed.

Dissatisfaction with the overall quality of response from city employees

(cont.)

Was ignored by the police department and council.

Didn't follow the same rules for everyone. His "buddies" had a different code applied next door.

No action taken.

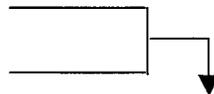
Slow to respond and given poor answers.

Attitude!

Didn't get any justice when reasons for it existed. Had to contact police 3 times more because nothing was being done.

O. How would you rate the level of communication between city government and Newton residents? (n=178)

- | | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. VERY GOOD | 8% |
| 2. GOOD | 62% |
| 3. FAIR | 19% |
| 4. POOR | 11% |



Please explain your concerns _____

Concerns about communication between city government and Newton residents

Rely too much on Newton Daily News. Should publish in other ways.

The only time I hear from the city government is at election time.

All they do is spend, and us seniors who are retired and are tired are ready to move out of here.

Would like notice of day and time of flushing the water system. Would have to be the city report because I don't get the city paper.

They need to keep us up-to-date better with changes.

We think the city council makes decisions without considering the people's wishes.

They promise to help the citizens of Newton, but all they're helping with is the newcomers and grants – tax abatement – grants – Wal-Mart – Walgreen's – Family Video, etc.

Put opinion columns in newspapers for each of the council members each week.

Never been contacted before.

They seem to not want to listen to Newton residents or care about their opinions.

Residents don't always know about issues or how the city can help until after something has happened. Inform and educate before!

People complain to friends and neighbors but don't call the city.

If people don't take the daily paper, they really only get accurate information from the city report once a month. There is certainly more going on than the report has room for.

I don't believe the city makes an attempt to discuss issues with the public. It's easier if the city just decides. The easy road isn't always the best.

Certain people get better and quicker attention.

They keep secrets.

Should take better care of our elderly.

Only know from mailed city report.

Need to take more interest in individual's suggestions and concerns.

If you're not in the "good old boys network," your concerns are not addressed.

This city does what they want to, always want to make city bigger than what the residents want.

P. As a rule, how often can you trust the city of Newton government to do what they say they will do? (n=180)

- 1. ALWAYS 3%
- 2. MOST OF THE TIME 80%
- 3. SELDOM 13%
- 4. NEVER 4%

Please explain your concerns _____

Concerns about trusting the city of Newton government to do what they say they will do

- They say one thing and do another.
- Because they don't consider people's wishes.
- They keep saying we're growing and taxes will go down. False, they've gone up every year for 10 years at least.
- They're politicians.
- They lie!
- They say what sounds good then do what they please.
- Change rules for certain people and organizations.
- I know what goes on with the government.
- Background checks on all city officials and city council.
- Some messages are deceptive. Take major actions on occasion without referendum.
- I hear or read about promises that are never or seldom ever fulfilled.
- Never know until after the fact.
- Too many little people have no say.
- They want to grow but a lot of businesses chased away.
- City council voting record is inconsistent.
- What about those new sidewalks at the new Maytag house (illegible)?
- Recent development on sidewalks is a fine example. President of Maytag wants to build home here but doesn't want sidewalks. No equalization at all in Newton.
- Don't have any idea.

Q. Please answer the questions below by circling the appropriate numbers.

	<u>STRONGLY DISAGREE</u>	<u>DISAGREE</u>	<u>AGREE</u>	<u>STRONGLY AGREE</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
1. I read the City Report Newsletter thoroughly (n=194)	6%	18%	56%	16%	4%
2. I feel safe walking alone at night in the downtown square area (n=192).....	9%	29%	44%	10%	8%
3. I consider myself adequately informed on city issues (n=193)	3%	22%	62%	6%	7%
4. Newton's water supply is clean and safe (n=193).....	2%	5%	59%	29%	5%

R. In your opinion, which is safer and healthier to use? (n=194)

- 1. BOTTLED WATER 19%
- 2. TAP WATER 22%
- 3. NO DIFFERENCE 59%

V. NEWTON UNITED WAY

To help us better understand the personal circumstances and needs of Newton citizens, please answer the following questions by circling the appropriate numbers.

A. Are you a member of a local organization or group that serves the interests and needs of everyone in Newton? (n=193)

- 1. YES 24%
- 2. NO 76%

B. During the past 12 months, have you yourself been asked by someone in Newton to serve as a community volunteer? (n=192)

- 1. YES 28%
- 2. NO 72%

C. During the past 12 months, have you served as a volunteer on a community-wide project or activity? (n=196)

- 1. YES 24%
- 2. NO 76%



C1. What keeps you from volunteering? (Circle all that apply) (n=144)

- 1. Too busy – not enough time 37%
- 2. Never invited to volunteer 26%
- 3. Don't know how to go about being volunteer 7%
- 4. Have nothing to offer as a volunteer 4%
- 5. Not interested in doing volunteer work 26%
- 6. Other (specify) _____ 25%

Other reason that keeps you from volunteering

I'm handicapped.
 Handicapped
 Currently volunteering in other capacities.
 Have done a lot of volunteering, but very busy at this time.
 Work from 7:30-6:00 out of town.
 Volunteer when I have the time.
 They get too much money for sitting behind desks and sending others out to work for nothing.
 Single mother with two kids and I work day and night.
 Help with my mother in a nursing home.
 Also have a handicapped son at home.
 Bad heart

Other reason that keeps you from

C2. Approximately how many hours a week did you serve as a volunteer? (n=43)

- 1. Less than 2 hours 56%
- 2. 2-5 hours 40%
- 3. 6-10 hours 0%
- 4. More than 10 hours 4%

volunteering (cont.)

Trying to help myself and my family make a living.

Family

Have children who need care. Can't afford care when volunteering my time.

Not able to physically do some things.

Health

I have Minnear's disease.

Not sure what I can offer.

Too old and sick

Too old

I'm too old. I've done my times.

I volunteer for school activities and at church.

Age and health

Age and health

Had been at museum but not last year.

We've done our share at 81 years old.

Health

Poor health

Medical reasons

Old and handicapped.

Too old now.

Too old

Age and health

Age

Not able anymore.

Mostly church work, nursing homes, and Hospice.

I have too much to do.

Volunteer at church, school library, and city library.

Health and age

D. What are/would be factors that motivate you to volunteer on behalf of the community? (Circle all that apply) (n=184)

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Opportunity to meet new people | 32% |
| 2. Opportunity to socialize with others | 26% |
| 3. A way to improve the community | 47% |
| 4. Good feeling from helping the community | 44% |
| 5. Other (specify) _____ | 7% |
| 6. Nothing would motivate me to volunteer | 23% |

Other factors that motivate you to volunteer

I enjoy volunteer work but no longer am able to.

When the kids are grown and I'm not volunteering for all their things.

Good feeling helping others.

Something my children and I could do together.

It doesn't work with my two jobs.

Peer pressure

A way to enjoy myself and have fun with others possibly including our children.

Other factors that motivate you to volunteer (cont.)

- The cause
- Help people who need it.
- Age and health
- Poor health

E. Looking to the future, what type of volunteer opportunities would you be interested in? (Circle all that apply) (n=178)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Chance to work with people of different ages | 26% |
| 2. Chance to work with others in the community | 39% |
| 3. Chance to work alone | 5% |
| 4. Chance to use my professional skills and experiences | 22% |
| 5. Other (specify) _____ | 7% |
| 6. None of the above | 39% |

Other types of volunteer opportunities you'd be interested in

- Handicapped
- Not enough time to go around.
- Something to help my children with social skills.
- Helping others
- Working with kids.
- Chance to help Newton's children.
- Haven't thought about it. I'm not certain.
- Age

FOR SENIORS ONLY (65 years of age and over): A couple of questions about Newton's senior programs:

F. What would/does prompt you to participate in organized senior programs? (Circle all that apply) (n=136)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Opportunity to learn new things | 25% |
| 2. Opportunity to socialize with others | 33% |
| 3. Opportunity to improve my health/fitness | 23% |
| 4. Opportunity to overcome boredom | 20% |
| 5. Opportunity to travel | 10% |
| 6. Opportunity to help others | 43% |
| 7. Opportunity to meet people of different ages | 8% |
| 8. Other (specify) _____ | 2% |
| 9. None of the above | 42% |

Other participation in organized senior programs

- Like to walk three times weekly.

G. What type of senior programs would you like to see available in Newton? (n=43)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Programs allowing me to volunteer | 5% |
| 2. Educational programs | 5% |
| 3. Health/fitness programs | 19% |
| 4. Intergenerational programs | 7% |
| 5. Other (specify) _____ | 4% |
| 6. None of the above | 60% |

Other types of senior programs you'd like to see available

- Handicapped
- Help to church in winter months.

VI. PERSONAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The information needed in this section is included to make certain that a broad cross section of all people living in Newton have been part of this survey. As with other answers, all of the information will be confidential.

A. How long have you lived in Newton? _____ YEARS (n=194)

5 years or less	9%
6-10 years	8%
11-20 years	13%
21-30 years	13%
31 years and over	57%

B. What is your age? _____ YEARS (n=194)

Less than 30	5%
30-44	21%
45-59	34%
60-74	23%
75 and over	17%

C. Your sex? (n=194)

1. MALE	45%
2. FEMALE	55%

D. Your present marital status? (n=195)

1. NEVER MARRIED	6%
2. MARRIED	65%
3. WIDOWED, SEPARATED OR DIVORCED	29%

E. Your highest level of formal education attained? (n=192)

1. LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	4%
2. COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL (GRADE 12)	43%
3. SOME COLLEGE (LESS THAN 4 YEARS)	34%
4. COLLEGE GRADUATE (4 YEAR DEGREE)	13%
5. POST-COLLEGE GRADUATE (DEGREE BEYOND BA OR BS)	6%

F. How many adults (18 years and older), including yourself, currently live in your household? (Do not include college students living away from home while at school.) _____ ADULTS (n=190)

1=31% 2=61% 3=7% 4=1%

How many children (less than 18 years old) currently live in your household? _____ CHILDREN (n=176)

0=72% 1=8% 2=13% 3=5% 4=1% 5=1%

G. Who in your household is covered by some type of health insurance? (For example, through personal health insurance, a program provided through an employer, Veteran's Administration, Medicare, or Medicaid?) (n=192)

- 1. ALL members are covered 92%
- 2. NO members are covered 4%
- 3. SOME members are covered 4%

↓

G1. Who is not insured? (Circle all that apply) (n=12)

- 1. YOU 67%
- 2. SPOUSE 25%
- 3. CHILD OR CHILDREN 25%
- 4. Other (specify) _____ 17%

Other person not insured
Grandson living with me.

H. Your present employment status? (n=187)

- 1. EMPLOYED OR SELF-EMPLOYED ON A FULL-TIME BASIS 44%
- 2. EMPLOYED OR SELF-EMPLOYED ON A PART-TIME BASIS 10%
- 3. RETIRED 35%
- 4. FULL-TIME HOMEMAKER 5%
- 5. STUDENT 1%
- 6. UNEMPLOYED 5%

↓

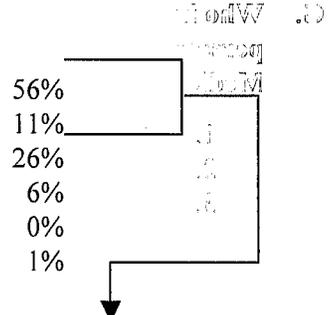
Please describe your present occupation:

OCCUPATION (n=82)	COMMUNITY WHERE EMPLOYED (n=82)
Professional 23%	Newton 87%
Managers 15%	Des Moines 5%
Sales 7%	Prairie City 1%
Clerical 15%	Johnston 1%
Craftsmen 9%	Pella 2%
Operatives 5%	West Des Moines 3%
Transport 2%	Ames 1%
Laborers 9%	
Service workers 15%	

I. TO BE ANSWERED IF YOU ARE PRESENTLY MARRIED:

What is your spouse's present employment status? (n=124)

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. EMPLOYED OR SELF-EMPLOYED ON A FULL-TIME BASIS | 56% |
| 2. EMPLOYED OR SELF-EMPLOYED ON A PART-TIME BASIS | 11% |
| 3. RETIRED | 26% |
| 4. FULL-TIME HOMEMAKER | 6% |
| 5. STUDENT | 0% |
| 6. UNEMPLOYED | 1% |



Please describe your spouse's present occupation:	
OCCUPATION (n=58)	COMMUNITY WHERE EMPLOYED (n=69)
Professional 17%	Newton 90%
Managers 12%	Des Moines 6%
Sales 14%	Johnston 2%
Clerical 12%	Marshalltown 1%
Craftsmen 10%	Pella 1%
Operatives 4%	
Transport 3%	
Laborers 10%	
Farm laborers 2%	
Service 14%	
Private household 2%	

J. What was your approximate gross family income from all sources, before taxes, for 2000? (n=174)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. LESS THAN \$9,999 | 5% | 5. \$40,000 TO \$49,999 | 16% |
| 2. \$10,000 TO \$19,999 | 12% | 6. \$50,000 TO \$59,999 | 10% |
| 3. \$20,000 TO \$29,999 | 17% | 7. \$60,000 TO \$74,999 | 13% |
| 4. \$30,000 TO \$39,999 | 14% | 8. \$75,000 AND OVER | 13% |

K. What are the three most important issues that you feel Newton will have to address over the next five years?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Three most important issues you feel Newton will have to address over the next five years

- More retail stores.
- Layoffs at Maytag, new business and industry to the area, and traffic control as city grows.
- We need to clean up the empty buildings coming off I-80 and Highway 4, and we need some good eating places in Newton. Not junk food!
- Education and senior citizen housing and care.
- Bringing in new business, keeping taxes under control, and unemployment.
- No nice restaurants, no places to shop.
- Racetrack issues either direction.

Three most important issues you feel Newton will have to address over the next five years (cont.)

Keeping people in Newton, educating our children with the funds provided, and affordable housing for everyone.

Taxes and employment.

Education, health, and police.

Housing and economic development – expansion of tax base, cost containment.

Housing for seniors, retail businesses, and recreation opportunities for youth.

Retail businesses, clean up properties with junk piled high, and keeping streets up.

Property taxes, additional housing, and new businesses and industry.

Employment, water, and traffic.

How to make new members of the community feel welcome. Better and more low cost housing.

Economic development.

Housing and new businesses.

People instead of golf courses, buildings, and property. First Ave traffic, traffic lights, and signs.

Renovate downtown area, street repairs, and more businesses.

Forget the new race track. Find some stores to buy clothing at other than Wal-Mart. Find housing that is not government owned.

Employment, education, and drugs and alcohol.

More job availability with good wages and benefits.

School bond issues, race track, and property taxes.

Crime and drug enforcement. Bringing new businesses to the community.

Have more jobs to keep young people here. Get more stores like Target, K-Mart, and good places to shop. We need more family restaurants, not just fast food.

Employment, taxes, and defeating the race track.

The schools that need updated. Bringing in more retail in empty buildings.

More apartments with reasonable rent.

Street repair. Low income housing for the elderly. Public transportation.

Drugs, crime, and seniors.

Lower property taxes. Help small businesses stay in town, not just the giants. Lower administrator salaries in city jobs and schools. The new city administration and assistant would cover the salaries of 5 police officers according to recent set on police employment.

More effort should be put in the beautification of the city as a whole. Keeping local business flourishing and bring in new. Beautification and construction on both interchange areas on each end of town, so we don't have so many run down looking buildings.

Keeping Maytag work here and not moving it to Mexico. Offer a variety of clothing stores here on the square. Impact of a racetrack.

New jail. New YMCA or enlargement of the old one. More elderly housing projects for elderly only.

Crime. Lack of industry. Closing of businesses.

How they will keep property taxes down.

Bring IN businesses. Don't take or scare them away. Use our tax money. We pay you wisely; don't overspend it on needless things.

We need a store that sells more things like a JC Penney's, Younker's, etc.

Increasing population. Increasing business (restaurants and general stores). Building more retirement homes.

Larger companies need to be in town. Stabilizing property taxes. Offer urban renewal throughout the town not just in certain areas.

Job market, housing, and drugs.

Loss of manufacturing jobs. Loss of local businesses. Bring in good paying jobs to replace the ones we will lose.

Jobs with livable wages, housing, drugs.

Three most important issues you feel Newton will have to address over the next five years (cont.)

Jobs pay at living wages. Empty stores say "Dead town." Thirty years in factory and have always felt the town folk looked down on laborers. They gouge the working people every way they can.

Lower taxes

Lower taxes. New business. Keep pay raises in align with the average. Bring in upscale dining. Get another store to shop at other than Wal-Mart. More factories. Improve 1st Ave to make traffic move faster.

Taxes need to be lower! Police you can trust and respect. More stores downtown.

Keeping Newton an affordable city to live in. Employment opportunities. Improving appearance of all Newton entrances.

Bringing in new business and manufacturing. Affordable living for retirees. Dealing with teenage drug problems.

Quality restaurants. Sidewalks on every street. Keep drugs out of Newton. Too many and too much access for teens.

Get some stores in this town. Dump the idea of the racetrack. Elimination of leaf burning has alternatives.

Growth. Maintain property taxes. Economic growth.

Increase positive attitude throughout the community about the community. Treat all persons in the community the same, rich or poor. Finding a way to keep citizens in Newton, not just working in Newton, but also living. Keeping life here! Also need more job opportunities and a wider range of jobs.

Property taxes. Trim the budget. Police and fire department costs.

More stop signs. More help for older people. More help for low income.

Decline of local businesses. Stopping the production of Meth and other illegal drugs. Keeping the local government spending at present level.

Bringing in new businesses. Updating two entrances to Newton.

Bring in more business. Bring in more factories. Make the city grow.

Appearance of homes and lots. Support for school district. Keeping businesses.

New businesses. More senior apartments.

Lower taxes, more stores.

Need competition for Wal-Mart. Bring in Target, Menard's and more good eating choices.

Business retention and growth for small business owners. Population retention and growth. More employment opportunities besides fast food, Maytag, education, and Wal-Mart. Industrial Park basement opportunities will help middle income.

Stimulate economic growth. City council to operate using better judgment and leadership for Newton betterment. Have a realistic 5 year plan.

Racetrack, 1% sales tax, taxes.

Property taxes, retail growth

Retail development. New industry and professional jobs. New racetrack and other income sources.

Taxes

Keeping our town safe from terrorism. Need more shopping other than Wal-Mart.

Economic development – get more businesses to come to town. More youth interests – get children involved in the community. Find ways to better inform residents of city issues.

Taxes. Loss of business. Keeping water pure.

Keeping and attracting businesses.

Industry beyond Maytag. In 20 years plant 2 will no longer exist. Better leadership. No vision for the future.

Landfill. After school/no school teen activities. Park cleanup and neighborhood watch.

Development of a professional office complex. Bring more businesses to town. Focus on the population growth of Newton.

Income generated by business to determine allowances for future businesses. Keeping the youth

Three most important issues you feel Newton will have to address over the next five years (cont.)

K-12 involved with a variety of activities. Develop a means to communicate effectively between the city and those who live there.

All able people should be working. Improve uptown and mall stores. Better police protection all over Newton.

More shopping, more increase in population, more housing.

Reduction of State and Federal revenue sharing programs. City payroll and benefits. Attracting new businesses.

Taxes, development, jobs

Regarding leaf removal within city limits. Having sidewalks in all residential areas. Trying to keep more businesses in the city and staying here.

Keeping drugs out of schools, get rid of the Meth labs. Streets and curbing need attention. More theaters or entertainment to keep people in town.

Parking on street for days. Working on cars all hours of the day and night. Speeding.

Attracting and keeping retail. Attracting and keeping restaurants. Maytag.

Paying city debts and not incurring any more debt. Spend money wisely. Don't tear down buildings which could be useful.

Lack of rooms in schools. Lack of business, clothing stores, etc. Rising property taxes.

No raises in taxes.

Shortage of labor. Maintaining manufacturing we have. City growth.

Maytag, racetrack, taxes

Keeping Maytag in Newton. Keeping the existing retail. Keeping property taxes stable.

Getting businesses to come to Newton and stay here. Keeping Maytag in Newton. Not raising property taxes.

Taxes, new businesses, care for our elderly

Reinforce the burning laws. Research people with animals from the rescue league.

Industry for jobs. Not letting one major job source dictate what goes on in Newton. That has cost the city of Newton two new job sources that I can think of.

One percent income tax increase. Lower spending. Remember people (retired) are on fixed income.

Drug abuse. Quality of education at high school. Revenues and expenses.

Taxes too high. More things done for retired people.

Expansion, medicine, and retail

Property taxes extremely high. Cost of living is driving people away. Housing for elderly.

Business and economic growth. Housing. Education.

Retirement housing and services. Continue recruitment of new small businesses. Downtown parking.

New industry and jobs. Too large school programs. Finances.

Teaching children the 3 R's. Do something about littering. Lower property taxes for poor oldsters.

Taxes

City workers need to be educated about people with disabilities. Keeping taxes down. Keeping and bringing in new businesses.

Economic development. Loss of state and federal dollars.

Taxes, more industry, recreation

Jobs

Housing and zoning

School improvements.

Economy, senior housing, taxes.

Housing. Unemployment. Economics and places to shop.

Security. Labor poor. Retail growth.

Reduction of property taxes. Minimal to no sales tax increase.

Three most important issues you feel Newton will have to address over the next five years (cont.)

Economic development to keep retail business. New employers besides Maytag. Affordable middle income housing.

Funding for education. Health care for elderly adults within the range of housing arrangements. Employment opportunities.

Attracting more businesses with decent wages and benefits. Building affordable housing. Attract businesses downtown.

Juveniles "hangout" at courthouse at night. Drugs. Water because it tastes and smells awful.

Property tax increases. Need for additional work opportunities. Increase population.

Condos for older people. Taxes. Streets need new businesses.

Job security. Job availability. Schools - our kids get a good education in good schools.

Lower rent for people

Drugs, crime, job security.

Bring new retail stores. Keeping the manufacturing companies. Jail.

Infrastructure, particularly sewer, both sanitary and drinking. Planned growth. Diversifying economic structure.

Housing for low income. Higher paying jobs. Health insurance for kids.

Entering new businesses and retaining current.

Street repair stop signs at Fareway and library corner. Retail businesses. Job opportunities and better salaries for service jobs.

Get more business/manufacturers to come to Newton. Get more jobs. Improve the schools to offer better/more services for special needs students.

Population growth. Keeping Maytag strong. Housing.

Employment base. Keeping taxes under control. Increase retail and restaurants.

Keeping young adults off the square after 10 PM.

Taking care of population that DHS cuts will affect. Keeping property taxes under control. Illegal drug use.

More senior housing for lower income people. More businesses and more people. More things for younger people to do.

Higher paying employment. More street repair.

Poor economy. City council demands on changes. Racial feelings in the community.

Try to get more retail business and keep what we have. Keep young people from leaving town.

Maintain good schools.

Less property taxes. More stores to shop at.

Taxes have gone up every year since I've been here. Lost tax - what did we have the school bond vote for. All schools lied to us. City council for the people by the people. Haves and the have nots. No one is treated equal.

New manufacturing plants. Lowering taxes.

How to keep downtown Newton alive. How to attract a larger employer base. How to keep from becoming a bedroom community for Des Moines.

Creating a good business atmosphere. Keeping property taxes at present level. Becoming more efficient with less.

L. Please use the space below to indicate any comments or suggestions for the City of Newton or Newton United Way.

Other comments or suggestions

I feel that dropping Newton Little League and softball next year is a very big mistake. Our children boys and girls alike need an activity in summer. There are over 500 boys and girls alike that play and love this sport. It helps build new friends, teaches sportsmanship and it's a big part of our community, besides football, and I love football like everyone else but there are other sports. We have a good basketball coach in Newton now and the sport is finally growing again. We

Other comments or suggestions (cont.)

need this extra money from United Way to keep baseball growing in Newton. We need its support! People do not realize now much it costs from one year to the next to keep Little League going until you're a Little League board member! Please reconsider dropping Newton Little League please!

I've lived in a couple different communities comparable to Newton. By far this community has much higher incidence of drug and alcohol abuse. Kids are using because their parents are using or dealing or contributing. These parents who aren't doing the above are blind to reality. This community also seems to me to be the most violent. Also, more violent females than other communities. Maybe related back to drug and alcohol or other contributing factors. I'm not sure. Times are tough for all kids but I think so especially in the Newton community.

Why does the landfill burn rather than compost?

You lost my support for the United Way because of its past attack on the Boy Scouts from top officials in the United Way, even though they backed off. Those people who hold those views still hold those positions. Donate now to individual organizations.

Organization does a very good job.

Soon all shopping will be in Des Moines. Already so many items not available in Newton. I shop here first, but it's getting harder.

Increase pay of city council members and the mayor?

Quit building drugstores (We have too many). Quit building auto part stores (We have too many).

Could bring in to the community more shopping venues like a mall with affordable rent and clothing stores. If anybody needs anything, they go to Des Moines to get it.

We sold our home because of retirement and tried and tried to find an apartment that would fit our income. After looking at 10 different places, we found we were not (illegible). Our income was too much; it seems to me with all the apartments in this town there would be one.

One thing I would like to point out is keeping jobs in Newton, not letting jobs go out of the country.

Enforce more punishment on drugs and alcohol; people get off too easily.

We think they need to hold property taxes down! Maintain present spending.

Was a part of the CPA, great job. Improve the schools that were not allocated any money. Our taxes are high enough. Don't increase taxes just increase the sales tax.

Start treating the middle class people better, the rich can afford to do what they want and the poor can get everything free, while the middle class kids can't participate because of the cost if you have 2 or 3 kids. Many of the organizations expect the small business to support them all and the small businesses in Newton get no help at all. Hospice puts an ad in the papers advertising a free service. This is not true.

NO to the racetrack!

Bring in some real jobs for people here instead of just fast food places and shopping malls.

More friendly people who work in grocery stores. At least speak when they check your groceries at the check out.

Make preschool and childcare available to every family in town. More help to families who need to further their education to better their lives, and stop raising the property taxes every year some people cannot afford to live after you do this! Most people move out of Newton due to the lack of jobs and the high taxes. If you want to keep people, have them make sure they can afford to LIVE! My belief is that Newton relies too much on Maytag; we need to have more opportunities for employment in town.

Dentists and eye doctors charge more for services than insurance allows. Costs and prices on things in general are higher in Newton than in Des Moines. Drive 30 miles to save money. I've always felt Newton resents factory workers. The workers change shifts every 4 weeks. No consideration given in schools or activities from Ridiculous Days to school programs.

City of Newton: Lower taxes and eliminate all telemarketers and solicitors. United Way: Don't make such a big deal about wanting people to donate money. People will give if they want to.

We love the new bike paths! The city parks are truly beautiful and well-kept. Enjoy the number of churches; there are many places to attend. We need a better shopping mall! Old stage needs a

Other comments or suggestions (cont.)

business! Perk up the current mall.

Being a life long resident with the exception of 1 year of college, I do not feel treated the same as a new resident just coming to Newton from another city or state. New residents somehow have opportunities that individuals already here don't have. Would like to be on the same level.

Think sometimes we (the city) focus too much on just the project and not all of the people. We don't celebrate life in Newton very well. From the beginning to the end, all residents should have a good feeling about their life in Newton. If someone does move away from Newton, I would hope they miss Newton not thinking, "I'm glad we moved."

United Way - ask more average citizens to be involved. Do you have to have kids or be a business owner, Maytag executive, senior to be asked to be involved? Buy a leaf machine. Have residents rake to the curb. Eliminate leaf bags and charge a few more dollars per stop. I would pay \$10 for this as opposed to buying bags, putting leaves in the bags and leaving them at the dump or curb. Get the riff-raff off the square at night. What a disgrace by the war memorial and courthouse. Have something for kids who want to trick or treat but are too old to go to the hospital with their parents.

Constantly review and expand advanced gifts program. Develop (illegible) program for households not included in work-related contracts.

Would like to see a clean-up program of junk autos, trailers, etc. No street parking over 6 hours. I think the racetrack would be a great thing for Newton.

I was born and raised in Newton, worked out-of-town for 20 years in teaching, and returned six years ago. I see most areas in development haven't changed especially retail. The population is basically the same as when I grew up in Newton in the 60's. This has both negative and positive aspects, yet in this era growth in every way is needed to survive and prosper. Take some chances and really take necessary steps to draw jobs, stores, and population to Newton, while keeping our city as clean and safe as I feel now. Overall, I am glad to have moved back to Newton after living in Des Moines, Ottumwa, and Marshalltown.

The city needs to attract more companies and businesses to Newton to generate more tax dollars and create more competition between retailers to keep prices down and provide more selection and options for the consumer. This will also keep to the idea of "shop Newton." Being a lifelong resident, I know the impact of spending money in town, however, with the poor selection of stores in town the prices seem to be 15%-30% higher than the exact same product in Des Moines. We can spend \$10 on gas to drive to Des Moines or Marshalltown to purchase lumber and still save money. Newton also needs to create programs to get teens involved in the community to give them a sense of pride and lower vandalism and crime. We have very, very little for the younger citizens to do.

Install a public skate park. Possibly reassess the burning ban. More middle income housing. Keep property taxes at present level.

I would suggest to the United Way that it reconsider funding for City softball and baseball leagues. This allows for very important mentoring during the summer months when kids are prone to get into trouble.

I bought a bench to be put out in the cemetery in honor of my daughter and when I ask about having it installed I get the run around.

Divide the money more equally.

Let's make an effort to get after slum landlords. Lots of homes are rundown and eyesores. Who are the owners? Get after them to repair these places.

When a sidewalk is within distance, the snowplow can cover it. I believe the resident should only have to clear the walk once. My sister is 58 years old and last winter her walk was a killer. The only place the plowed snow could go was on her walk. She even received warning from the city. Very unfair!

Making sure city council sticks to all ordinances or if it waves one, it waves all cases. Make sure it's known that the Fire Dept. and Police Dept. don't get all the credit for everything when other city departments help and assist with them; there's more city departments than them. It was

Other comments or suggestions (cont.)

good to see United Way extend their help to other areas this year. Way to go! It is wonderful that they gave to the youth baseball programs. We hope to see more done for the youth in the communities.

In my opinion the racetrack should not be built as it will result in deep indebtedness for the citizens of Newton and Jasper County. The building previously occupied by Wal-Mart could possibly be utilized as a Teen Center or for youth programs.

I am led to believe that United Way has dropped support for Little League baseball and girl's softball. I hope this is wrong.

We should have only ONE side of all streets in Newton for cars to park.

Recharge the Neighborhood Watch Program. Where possible have police officers also assigned to "walk a beat" in a neighborhood and knock on doors to introduce themselves. Fire department could also visit homes to conduct fire inspections. Work hard to get junk cars removed from yards and continue the dilapidated building program. What about a parking ramp downtown and charge fees for use? Perhaps the city could allow Project Awake to beautify the former Claude Rusk building property east of the NE corner square. Keep up the good work!

Forget about the racetrack. If the people of Newton wanted one, they wouldn't have gotten rid of the old dirt track north of town. The proposed NASCAR track is just an ego trip for the county supervisors and will lead to ruinous debt for the city!

Sometimes I feel the city council lets Maytag influence what they do too much. The council has a tendency to spend too much money on beautification like the trees that were planted along 1st Ave and the square, then had to be removed; the concrete benches and planters on the square that were later removed. Money I feel could have been put to better use. The school system I feel spends some money unnecessarily. The new high school project was finished under budget, but that excess money was spent on projects that the voters never okayed which is not right.

Use our money wisely please.

City wants Newton to be a clean town, however, there are so many junky properties, residential AND commercial. Our city wants to be a big city but remember many people living in this town want this size town or they would move to the big city. I like this size and quality we get for our families. I know sidewalks are a big issue now, but I have never lived anywhere where there are so few sidewalks. This city has a lot of walkers and to see walkers and children walking on the street. When it snows, the streets get smaller and the children walk on the streets which is dangerous.

All in all I think they do a good job.

In planning for growth, every effort should be made to attract industries or businesses that require skilled workers and they pay them well enough to support a reasonable life style.

I am not in favor of the racetrack because I don't believe the taxpayers won't get stuck sometime for something.

Newton has a property maintenance standard for junk; please enforce it. Why are people permitted to park boats on city streets for days? How about getting large trailer homes out of people's yards? Remove shrubs and trees that block driver's views at residential intersections. Purchase a leaf cruncher so that residents may rake leaves to the street and have them removed by the street sweeper. Ask garbage collector to put garbage containers in from the street corner so they don't blow back into the street.

We are moving out of Newton because your schools are inadequate for special needs students, which our son is. The middle school and high school are the worst based on experience and from others opinions.

Newton has been a great place to live and raise our family. More retail shops downtown, more restaurants and improvements at the entrance to the city off I-80 would be good. It would be especially good to get some business into the empty buildings in the southwest corridor. The D&D program is good; keep it up. Communications are excellent in informing residents about what is going on. Park Center is a great facility but we also need a market rate assisted living. Beautiful parks especially Maytag and Agnes Patterson.

Other comments or suggestions (cont.)

I do not feel it is safe to walk in the streets of Newton after dark especially up on the square. We need new rules and guidelines for those young adults or something else for them to do, productive. Keep them off the Newton square after 10PM every night!

Some people can burn leaves; others can't. Some people need permits for improvements; others don't. County home closed down. Greed. The city council knew about what they were going to do long before people of Jasper County knew it. Policeman's dog biting a mail carrier and nothing was done about it. Police wrecking patrol cars. Tax payers footing the cost. If you have money or influence in Newton, you can do anything you want. Pay raises for city employees. Property appraisals.