

Dayton Community Strong

Project Summary & Plan

Prepared by the Dayton Community Strong Committee and
the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

November 2017

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I. Introduction

The Dayton Community Strong initiative began in July 2017 with a partnership between the Town of Dayton and the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC), to provide professional assistance to the Town for its community and economic development needs. Over the course of four months, a group of stakeholders met to identify priorities, and plan near term strategies that would set the Town on the path to achieving its long-term vision, as established in its Comprehensive Plan. The committee of stakeholders was made up of a representative cross-section of the citizens of Dayton, a Town Council member, and Town employees. Names of the committee members can be found in Attachment A. This planning initiative was supported by a Rural Community Development Initiative grant made to the CSPDC by the United States Department of Agriculture, and received approval from the Dayton Town Council to proceed before it was initiated.

The Town of Dayton is located in the southern portion of Rockingham County. The Town is approximately 5 miles southwest of the City of Harrisonburg and has a population of 1,654 according to 2015 ACS estimates. A community profile and a reference map can be found in Attachments B and C respectively.

II. Planning Process

The CSPDC facilitated a series of meetings that culminated in the development of the plan, found below. The purpose of the meetings was to lead the committee through a process that would enhance the Town's capacity to undertake community and economic development activities, ensuring the vitality of the Town, now and in the future.

Initial meetings focused on the process logistics and identifying and assessing current priorities that are most important to the Town's future. The top three priorities identified by the Dayton Community Strong Committee were: **beautification and restoration, community facilities, and economic development**. After the priority issues were identified, the committee discussed Town assets along with strengths and weaknesses associated with them. Next they reviewed community survey results, and lastly decided on possible strategies and solutions for each priority. A summary of these assessments can be found in Attachment D and a summary of the topics covered in these meetings can be found in Attachment E. Finally, the committee participated in the development of the plan and discussed the implementation process.

Interest from the broader community in working on these issues was confirmed with a survey that the committee members were instrumental in conducting. The survey was available online as well as on paper. There were 185 surveys collected which was 11% of the population. Community survey results can be found in Attachment F.

III. Plan

Below is a six-year work plan that was developed by the Community Strong Committee. The committee was asked to identify goals and strategies that would put the Town on the path to achieving its long-term vision. Rather than an exhaustive list of strategies, the committee was asked to develop a short-term plan that would generate momentum for community development projects that could be built upon in future years.

Focus Area: Beautification and Restoration
GOAL: Develop efforts to revitalize downtown. Decrease the number of derelict properties located within Dayton.
Strategy A: Encourage residential owners to maintain their property.
Strategy B: Pursue grant opportunities related to downtown sidewalks and placement of powerlines underground.
Strategy C: Create a wayfinding signage program.
Strategy D: Encourage others to seek funding from the Dayton Facade Enhancement Grant.
Strategy E: Continue public art work and murals around Dayton.

The committee defined the Beautification and Restoration priority as bringing more beauty to Dayton, restoring buildings, and creating wayfinding signage.

Focus Area: Community Facilities
GOAL: Develop and promote opportunities for community spaces that allow for adult and youth activities.
Strategy A: Pursue conversations with Town property owners regarding multi-use facilities.
Strategy B: Complete the greenway as well as non-motorized connectors to the Town periphery.
Strategy C: Encourage the use of existing parks by local groups and residents.

The committee defined the Community Facilities priority as creating community/recreation areas and multi-use facilities.

Focus Area: Economic Development

GOAL: Encourage opportunities for business attraction and retention, business development, and workforce development.

Strategy A: Improve marketing outreach to other communities and visitors.

Strategy B: Pursue a small business ownership and marketing expert to provide professional consultation services.

Strategy C: Encourage residents to shop at local businesses.

The committee defined the Economic Development priority as increasing the number of businesses, attracting more people to the Town, and promoting Town history.

IV. Plan Implementation & Evaluation

Moving forward, the following organizational structure is recommended to implement the plan:

- The Community Strong Committee be chaired by the Town Manager, a Town Council person, or an individual that is dedicated to serving the Town and has good communication with the Town Council.
- The committee is recommended to have regularly scheduled meetings, such as monthly or quarterly, depending on the activities underway at the time.
- The committee is recommended to be reformulated with a representative cross-section of five to six community members that can commit to participate for the three-year period of the plan timeframe. Members that served to formulate the plan should be welcomed to continue to serve.
- After the three-year period, new members are recommended to be solicited to relieve any members who wish to step down. The committee may choose to create task-oriented subcommittees that may dissolve after the completion of a task or project.
- The committee is recommended to report to Town Council and the public, at appropriate times, to keep the Town leadership and citizens informed of major actions and progress, seek approval from Town leadership when necessary, and solicit public input, as a top priority.

Most of the strategies included in this plan will require some level of funding to implement. The CSPDC is a resource for federal and state grant programs. The CSPDC can assist with applying for and managing these funds and projects, at the Town's request. Private funds may also be appropriate and helpful for some tasks. In many cases, this would mean fundraising by the community, which will require leadership from the Community Strong Committee. Finally, local funds provided by the Town are indispensable in implementing the strategies identified in the plan. In many cases, local funds can be leveraged to obtain other public and private funding.

The Community Strong Committee should revisit this Plan in the third year to assess progress, setbacks, barriers, and next steps. The committee, in consultation with the Town Council and the public, should determine whether the priority issues and strategies are still relevant, and undergo a process to repopulate the work plan with the most logical next steps at that time. The CSPDC is available to provide facilitation services to renew the plan, when the time comes.

V. Conclusion

The Community Strong Committee worked diligently to develop this plan because its members are motivated to increase the vibrancy of their Town. The planning process was a success, due in large part to the cooperative nature of the relations between the committee, Town staff, Town Council, and the public; qualities that will also be vital to the movement, as it progresses into implementation. The priority issues identified in the plan are interconnected, in that achieving beautification and restoration and community facility goals will create conditions more favorable for economic development. Likewise, developing the local economy will provide more resources to the Town for beautification and

restoration and community facilities. Thus, progress made on one issue, can be seen as progress made on all of them.

No action identified in this plan shall be construed as mandatory, nor does it obligate the Town Council to commit any funds to its implementation. The plan is a guide for future actions, and the Council may consider allocation of funds for individual projects and activities, at its discretion.

Attachment A

Community Strong Committee

Those listed below attended one or more meetings during the Community Strong Process.

Russell Bailey: Dayton Town Staff

Bob Bersson: Community Member

Joey Daff: Dayton Town Staff

Dana Fenner: Community Member

Daniel Hanlon: Dayton Town Staff

Cheryl Lyon: Community Member

Larry Michael: Dayton Town Staff

Shelley Newman: Dayton Town Councilwoman

Bobby Popowicz: Dayton Town Manager

Betsy Putney: Community Member

Attachment B

Dayton Community Profile



Household Income Comparisons (2015)



Housing (2015)

Total Housing Units	691
Occupied Housing Units	653
Owner-Occupied	465
Renter-Occupied	188
Vacant Housing Units	38
Average Household Size	2.39
Owner-Occupied	2.73
Renter-Occupied	2.05
Median House Value	\$219,300
Median Gross Rent	\$681

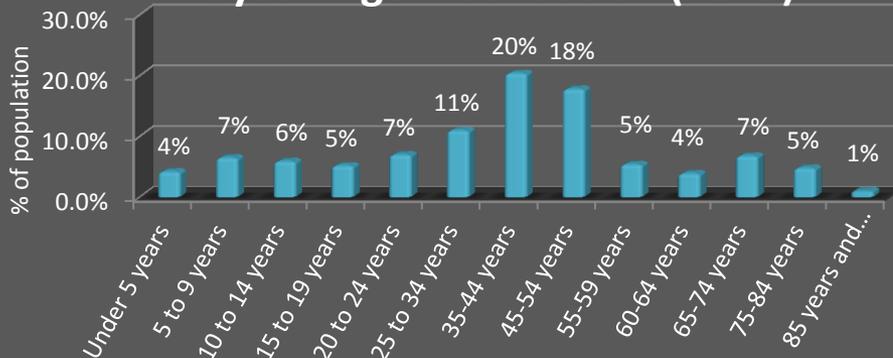
Income, Age & Education (2015)

Median Household Income	48,984
Median Age	40.1
% high school graduate or higher	88.6%
% bachelor's degree or higher	32.5%

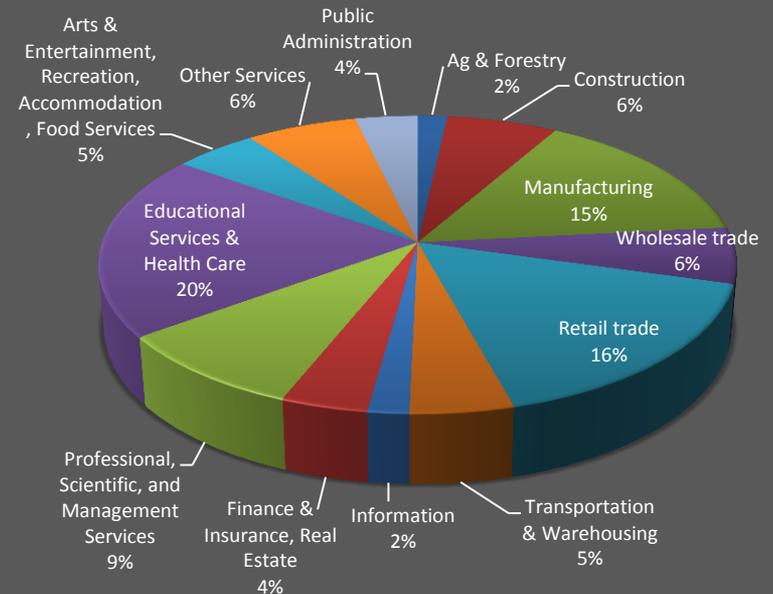
Employment Status (2015)

Civilian Labor Force	994
Number Employed	985
Number Unemployed	9

Dayton Age Distribution (2015)



Dayton Industry (2015)

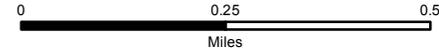


Attachment C

Town of Dayton

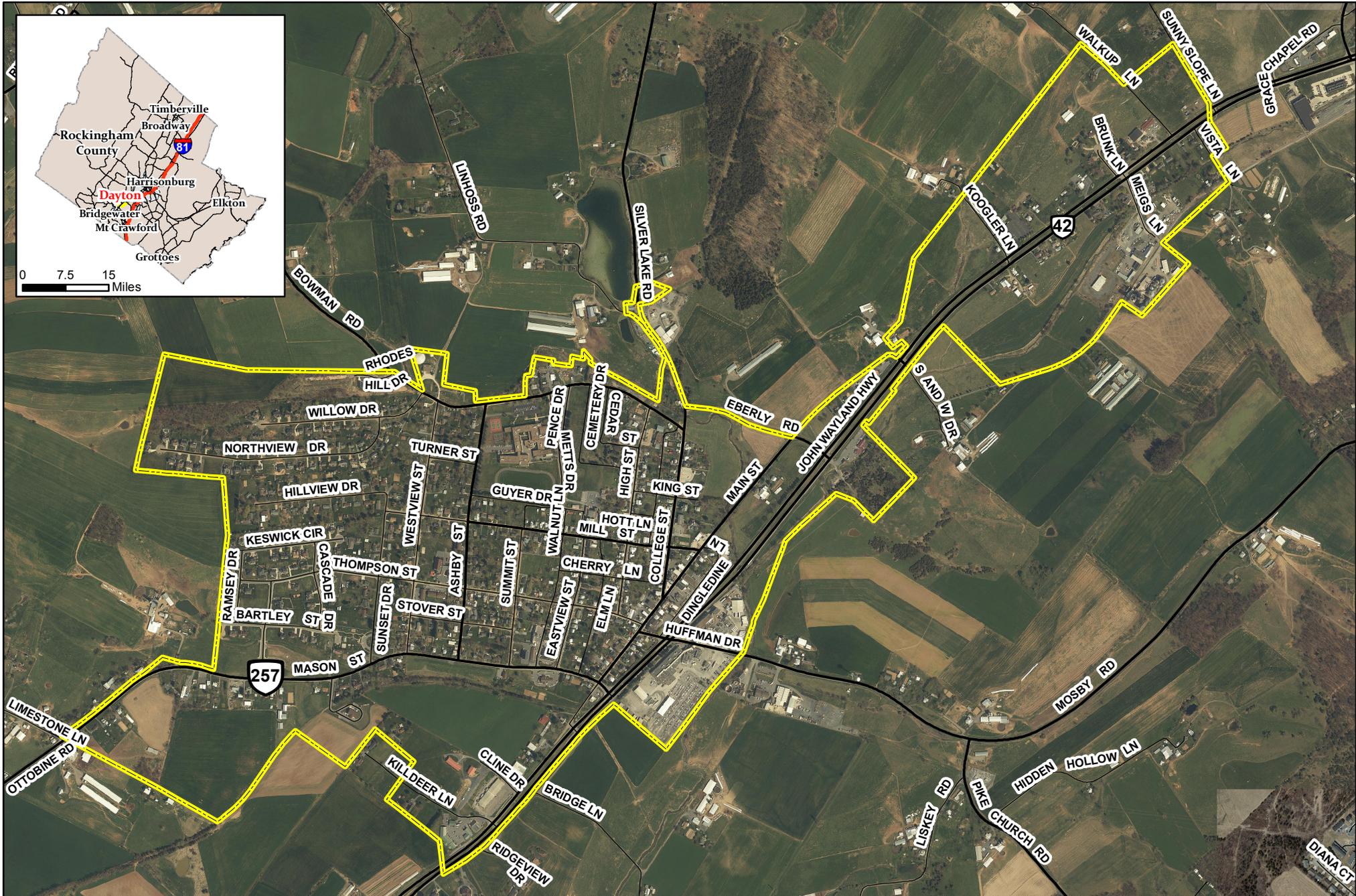
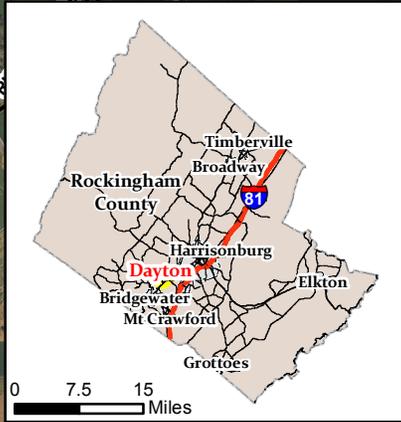
Reference

-  Town Boundary
-  Major Roads
-  Local Roads



Map produced by CSPDC
For Planning Purposes Only

Sources:
VGIN, VDOT, Town of Dayton, Rockingham County
June 27, 2017



Attachment D

Visioning and Identification of Program Priority Session Results:

The committee generated ideas which were grouped together based on similarity and then given a category name representing priorities identified by the committee. The five priorities that the committee identified are: Citizen Engagement, Beautification and Restoration, Economic Development, Community Facilities, and Connectors. Below is a brief explanation of each priority.

Citizen Engagement	Ways to connect with other residents as well as foster community spirit.
Beautification and Restoration	Bring more beauty to Dayton, restore buildings, and create wayfinding signage
Economic Development	Increase the number of businesses, upgrade utilities, bring more people to the Town, and promote history
Community Facilities	Create community/recreation areas and multi-use buildings
Connectors	Add walking trails, sidewalks, and a greenway

Asset Mapping Discussion Results:

The committee circled areas within the Town of Dayton on a map that represented assets to the Town. Below is a list of some of the Town assets as well as opportunities identified by the committee.

Town Assets	
Citizen Engagement	Town Events, Size of the Community
Beautification and Restoration	Silver Lake, The Mill and Mill House, Fort Harrison, Downtown, Murals and Artwork
Economic Development	Water and Sewer Infrastructure, Museum, Dayton Market, Agriculture, Location
Community Facilities	The Pavilion, Medical Facilities, Parks, Schools
Connectors	1st Leg of the Greenway
Town Opportunities	
Beautification and Restoration	Restoration and renovation of historic/old buildings, augmented reality tours of the Mill, etc.
Economic Development	Diversified tax base, economic development in a potential annexation area
Connectors	Greenway

Attachment E

Dayton Community Strong Meeting Timeline

July-1st Meeting

Meeting Content: Introductions, Description of Community Strong Program and CSPDC, Dayton Community Snapshot, Current Initiatives (Bobby Popowicz), Project Timeline and Activities

August-2nd Meeting

Meeting Content: Visioning and Identification of Program Priorities, Launch of Community Survey

****Community Survey launched last week of August and closed September 22nd.*

September-3rd Meeting

Meeting Content: Asset Mapping and Discussion

October-4th Meeting

Meeting Content: Review Community Survey Feedback, Assess Priorities

November 1st- 5th Meeting

Meeting Content: Determine Strategies for Plan

November 15th- 6th Meeting

Meeting Content: Review Plan, feedback, implementation, next steps

Attachment F

Dayton Community Strong Survey Tabulation

1. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in Dayton? For the purposes of this survey, quality of life refers to the well-being of the community and your personal satisfaction with it.

6 (Excellent)	84
5	65
4	28
3	5
2	1
1 (Very Poor)	0

2. How long have you lived in Dayton?

Less than a year	2
1-5 years	38
6-10 years	33
11-20 years	34
Over 20 years	68
Currently not a resident, but I own a business or property in the Town of Dayton	7

3. What is your age?

Less than 18	0
18-24	5
25-44	37
45-64	74
65 and older	66

4. Which area best describes the location of your property?

Willow West or Dayton West	44
South Breeze Estates	29
East of Summit Street (Hight St., Main St., College St., Eastview St., Etc.)	47
West of Summit Street--but not in South Breeze or Willow West (Hillview Dr., Westview St., Ashby St., Etc.)	59

5. What contributes most positively to the quality of life in Dayton? (Please select no more than 3)

Law Enforcement and Safety	121
Town Connectors (Sidewalks, Future Greenway)	32
Events and Summer Activities (Concerts, Family Movie Nights, Dayton Days, etc.)	65
Affordable Housing	12
Restaurants and Eateries	20
Unique Shops and Businesses	11
Playground and Parks	50
Community and Small-Town Feel	106
Waste Collection (Trash, Recycling, Lawn Waste, Heavy/Large Items, Christmas Trees, etc.)	60
Historic Significance	31
Other: (See Below)	17
Combination of the above	
Close distance to Harrisonburg without living in the city.	
Small quiet town. We love it.	
None	
Location	
Affordable Housing, Community and small-town feel, Waste Collection	
Playgrounds and Parks, Historic Significance	

Playgrounds and Parks, Historic Significance
Playgrounds and Parks, Waste Collection
Playgrounds and Parks, Community and Small-town feel, and Historic Significance
Close proximity to bank, church, and businesses in Harrisonburg
Awesome job on snow removal by the town maint. Crew for those of us who doesn't have snow blowers, etc.
Town Maintenance
Snow Removal
Quiet, peaceful
Close to my work
Quiet
Location close to all the schools and kids sporting activities

6. What improvements or changes would you like to see made in Dayton?
The rusty bugs aren't that attractive. We would rather see one of the civil war statues they are moving placed in their place.
Street lights are needed in Dayton West. A sidewalk is needed along Bowman Road that connects Rhodes Hill Drive to Willow Drive-helpful for children walking to Pence middle school-safety issue! The drainage area next to 103 Rhodes Hill Drive (Dayton maintained green space) needs attention. Weeds and grass have overtaken the area-that was once newly landscaped. The overflow area is an eyesore. Plus leftover construction material is still lying in the grass from when the "pit" was made-grates, etc. Take a look at the various street signs/road signs thru town and along Route 42. A lot are crooked or leaning. Straightening them up, would make the town look a little neater.
An improved connection between Silver Lake/Mill and the neighborhood parts of Dayton (greenway). Needs better street lights.
Powerlines underground would be helpful.
Downtown businesses area could use improvement to attract new businesses. I also believe our view along side 42 could be improved.
Improve yard waste collection services
Keep small town and historic feel. Reduce speed limit on 42. Consider parking on one side only for narrow streets.
Please beautify "pocket park" at the entrance of Dayton-West-on the left as you enter Rhodes Hill Drive.
Clean up house at Thompson and Ashby

Are the rusty insects in the park on Cooks creek a tetanus hazard for children?
Reduce speed limit on 42 N from Walk up lane to 45 on 42 south. 42N is mostly residential. A new business coming on 42N that involves heavy slow moving traffic.
Cargill's smell is terrible sometimes, it depends on the direction of the wind. It will be good and healthy if our beautiful town could be free bad smell from that factory. It should be far away from town.
Find a way to minimize the odors from Cargill; people should be more considerate by not allowing their dogs free in others yards. They leave feces in the yard.
Instead of all council's focus being on "if you build it they will come", perhaps you should take better care of what you have. Sidewalks within the town would benefit residents who live and pay taxes here.
Property owners need to keep property clutter free and mowed. I feel like the rusty giant bugs on Bowman are an eyesore. Keep up with the Dayton signs and subdivision signs (South Breeze) weeded, etc. Need to keep up appearance of parks that we have mowing, weeding, etc.
Residents bag all trash to prevent trash blowing into yards. Single land bridge coming into Dayton on 42 widened. Slow down on our streets. Residents pick up after your pets.
Residents pick up after their dogs. Slow down on our streets. Single lane bridge coming into Dayton from 42 needs badly to be widened. (flooding, congestion, safety) Residents bag all trash...no loose trash in cans!
I would like to see the existing infrastructure (sidewalks, streets, powerlines, etc) repaired before new projects are started like the greenway.
Clean up some properties. Move old steel artwork at park near school. No purpose to have at park.
Sidewalks-any new construction (Dayton West) Should be required to have sidewalks.
Sidewalks, no new street should be without.
I live in Willow West and I would like to see street curbs constructed like in Dayton West. I believe it makes for a much more attractive look and feel of the neighborhood.
Control of loose dogs and "cats". Mail to the houses. Every home.
Street pavement. Stray cats. Mosquito spray.
Forget greenway and upgrade infrastructure and concentrate on what benefits residents! Every street should have good sidewalks. Parks desperately need attention and upgrades.
Leash law for cats
Spray vines on trees. Fix road over bridge and improve shoulders of roads from Ft. Harrison to Eberly Rd on Main St.

All parking signs on Main St. should be same type and size. All signs now are mis-matched. (Town of New Market recently did this) Also install some horse type parking posts along Main st to add to historic feel of downtown.
Trash clean up over Dayton's yards. Main street is too narrow. Don't know what to do about it, though.
Members of town council are "strangers", unknown and invisible. Parking on one side of streets. streets are too narrow.
Better communication and connection between areas/businesses-bring in the tourists to all areas (historic, downtown, Dayton market)
Discontinue desecration of the Lord's day like holding events such as the Flea on Sunday! I well remember when fishing was not permitted at Silver Lake on this day.
House numbers painted on sidewalks in front of houses.
The sidewalks on Bowman narrowed the street. Now trucks use the sidewalks to make turns. By the way I never saw any pedestrian on those "new sidewalks".
More sidewalks. A walking trail. Dog park.
Walking trails
Improve water quality!
Cargill's odor keeps more people from settling in Dayton than any other issue. Improve water quality. brown, rust color left on sinks and glasses, etc.
Enforce the nuisance ordinance.
Adequate and visible parking to promote downtown businesses.
no changes
Clean up Thompson/Ashby St eye sore. Dog Park.
Improve website to specifically state trash/recycling pick on holidays. I can never find it and the recycling and trash companies don't follow the same policy. Sometimes recycling is picked up on regular day but trash is not.
Improve cooks creek bridge (flooding, two cars trying to pass at once, etc.). Monitor speeders at same intersection coming from Silver Lake Rd into Dayton.
Curb and guttering in Willow West
Curb and gutter in Willow West
Remove junk in yards (cars).
Community wifi-free connections
Picking up of larger tree branches.
Future Greenway. Curb and guttering in Willow West.

I would like to see curb and guttering in Willow West.
Remove bug sculptures.
Finish promised sidewalks where easements were take or release easements back to owners.
Please remove all bug sculptures. Need more restaurants, could we get a good Chinese restaurant?
For the safety of the Mennonite Community I would like to see separate travel routes for the horses, bicycles and tractors. Something like bike lanes on the roads- make it part of the plan for the greenway. Thanks.
Walking path from downtown Dayton to the Farmers Market.
Infrastructure-fix flooding downtown. Greenway!!! Improve curb appeal downtown.
I would like to see the greenway project completed.
Sidewalk on 257 from main st to sunset park. Replace police vehicles that are constantly in for repair so that if an emerg. happens someone can get there.
People respecting other people by removing junk from their yards and respecting other people with outdoor appearances.
Making the town more walkable.
The town should strongly encourage Cargill to reduce odor, night noise, and to improve appearance.
Cleaner downtown. Better lighting in the downtown.
Please put in place temporary or permanent repairs to control water problems on downtown streets!
More playground rides and exercise equipment
Reduce speed limit on Route 42 north.
More emphasis on improving the downtown area.
Maybe have students care for the old cemetery tombstones that are black. Wash sidewalks. Water and sewer bills (trash) are very high!
Route 42 eye sores (hurricane fence and trucks on one side, Cargill on the other). Smell from Cargill and feathers around town.
I would hope that one day Dayton would see it is not necessary to have chickens "inside" the town limits. In the county not a big deal...The thought of Dayton turning into "Little Mexico" would be the reason to move away!
The walking path to Silver Lake from the park is a wonderful idea.
Street paving
More eateries. Road Maintenance.

Horse manure on College St. Is there a code or law to control this? Speed- on college st, cars, trucks and farm tractors.
Replace low water bridge near cooks creek park.
An active greenway. Bike lane from Silver Lake to farmers market. Bike lanes on 42 from Bridgewater to Harrisonburg. This area contains the fastest most dangerous traffic, yet no lanes for biker commutes, family rides, or old Mennonite bike traffic-very dangerous road yet very commutable because of Bridgewater's growth, and Dayton/Harrisonburg's growth.
Shrubbery trimmed at homes and intersections so you can see without pulling into street.
Reduce speed limit on 42 to 45 instead of 55. Traffic is terrible.
The bridge on College st being one lane is dangerous. Cars coming from Silver Lake rd fly through intersection of Eberly and College. Someone could get hurt.
Main st. south of mason st. make one way south.
Stop Greenway. Cost to much money. Not needed. Pick up tree limbs with garbage truck.
Let Sheriff dept. handle school protection
Junky yards cleaned up and all junk removed. Apts. on W. View kept cleaner. More emphasis on "No littering!" and penalties.
The town needs to work on caring for the parks and building it has and stop adding more items for our town employees to care for. Currently we don't have the staff to care for what we have.
There are a number of blighted properties in our town. The Martin properties along 257 have large patches of weeds and brush, the Hinton property on Ashby, the Layman property on 257, and the Layman property by Silver Lake- I don't think this one is in the town limits, but still an eyesore for the town.
Reducing Cargill's presence, smell, footprint.
I am really looking forward to the future greenway and sidewalk connecting us to the Dayton market.
More eateries. Shops in front of South Breeze Estates. Active Adult (55& Older) community on the 30 acre parcel off Mason St. (Across from South Breeze)
Get the greenway done ASAP! Improve drainage. Continue and expand efforts to improve the appearance of unattractive properties.
More sidewalks
Continue sidewalks
Get the greenway to Silver Lake done.
I like it the way it is.
Clean up the properties with junk everywhere. Fix up the main street and the run down homes and businesses

improvements to the buildings (some residential ties on roof) downtown. Crack down on derelict properties. Establish greenway all around town. More retail. Make Dayton a destination town.
Because of how fast people drive into Dayton and out of Silver Lake Road, I would like to see a stop sign before they reach the bridge. It is very dangerous there.
I'd like to see a light above the water fountain at Cooks Creek. It is very dark there at dusk.
-Have more maintenance workers to be able to keep up with mowing, weeding, general work in town. -Continue to enforce nuisance ordinance-none of the target properties are in compliance yet -Parks need weeding, sign update, general up keep on a regular basis
Clean up junk yard on Thompson and Ashby corner.
Walk/Bike trails Cows out of Cooks Creek! Health/Vegetarian Restaurant!
Dayton has a serious air problem from: a.) Cargill b.) Poultry Litter spread on fields and herbicides sprayed on fields Also, please get the cows out of Cook's Creek.
There are too many junked cars polluting people's front yards, our streets. One down my street has sat on the curb for over 18 months! West over Summit is a house with 10 cars in the front yard (most haven't moved since I moved in 10 years ago!). I'm sure this is affecting curb appeal for prospective home buyers and makes Dayton feel kind of "cheap." Not everyone has a garage to hide these wrecks, but is there some zoning law to minimize this? I'd also like to see more of the Main Street buildings refurbished, as the Dayton Tavern has done. Finally, what can be done to build a pedestrian walkway from downtown to the Mill at Silver Lake? Any chance a greenway, or pedestrian mall could tie together north Dayton with the commerce downtown? At the very least, a safe sidewalk across the one-lane bridge heading north to the Mill? The Lake is such an under-appreciated destination for walkers, bikers, dog-walkers, and so on.
Provide a community based website (like emporianews.com) where schools, clubs, churches, businesses, and the town could post ads, notices, articles, news. This is very different from the official town website.
Spruce up downtown area, fix bent signs around town, residents encouraged to keep up property, more community engagement in projects
At least one more food choice, more retail businesses. Converting Dayton Learning Center into diverse use spaces that are self-supporting
More places to eat

More winter activities, once summer is over so is the music, movies. After Oktoberfest Dayton rolls up till Christmas. It would be nice to have winter activities like indoor movie night, bingo night, yoga class, maybe Saturday group walks around Dayton we do love to keep fit in Dayton, our money goes to Harrisonburg and Bridgewater, why not keep it right here in our small town.

I would like to see more sidewalks on Westview, Ashby, and other in between streets. The greenway seems like a nice idea but is it really needed as much as sidewalks and possibly more adequate storm drainage? It seems Dayton seeks to spend money in ways that do not serve the community but rather is too focused only on projects where grant money is available. Downtown seems to get a lot of attention. Is the future of Dayton really downtown or is it rather along the Rt 42 corridor? Also I would like to see Bowman road extended straight out to rt 42 and the slab eliminated. Truck and agriculture traffic need to be eliminated from Westview and improving Bowman rd is the answer. This needs to be put on the front burner.

Remove the rusty insect sculptures as someone could get hurt with them even though it says don't touch. There are several homes along Thompson Street where the properties are cluttered with junk. These should be cleaned up.

Needs more to do. More places to eat. Better shopping. Better parks. Just look at what Bridgewater offers its taxpayers. there's indoor tennis, Golf, Parks Etc

More downtown businesses and a nicer streetscape.

Expedite widening of Cook's Creek bridge.

Roads paved better

Sidewalks on the rest of Thompson and Ashby, not overdeveloping small lots on older streets,

More sidewalks and better roads

Traffic continues to be problematic through the downtown area, specifically rt 732 during rush hours. With more building on the horizon it can only get worse.

Need more eating places.

Narrow streets due to cars being parked on both sides of the street. Main Street is terrible for this. I run on the sidewalks throughout town. Some residents do a poor job of trimming bushes & shrubs that overgrown onto the sidewalk. This forces you to have to step off the sidewalk onto the road which can be hazardous. Need better enforcement of expectation to keep sidewalk clear.

None

Sidewalks

to help traffic flow, especially in the morning, I would like to see the town consider a roundabout connecting Bowman, Eberly, College and 701(which has a dangerous blind hill) coming into town...it would only take a little land from the park and just a little from the property east of College...(ask me how, Sam Lee)

Resume using the "claw truck" to pick up yard trash, limbs, etc.w/o the current restrictions. go back to the original way of collecting, or sell the \$100k plus truck

Expand job and tax base. Improve entrance to town off of Mosby. Poop bags for horses in town.

Would love to see a par3 golf course or putt-putt that is free to town residents

Cooks Creek park would be a much safer and more practical playground for children if there was a fence separating the park and Bowman Road. As it is now " it does not feel very safe to let my children play there.

Quit wasting money on unnecessary sidewalks and pavers.

I am looking forward to the connector.

Less concern with one another and the lawn upkeep. Individuals should be aloud to have whatever they like on property they pay for, regardless if a neighbor agrees.

Greenway

better traffic control

More restaurants and a small local grocery

More restaurant choices, bike path with the Greenway

The one lane bridge at the intersection of Eberly Rd, College St, and Silver Lake Rd is sometimes tricky. Especially when trying to turn left from Eberly Rd onto College St because people seem to drive too fast coming down Silver Lake Rd and with that steep slope and tall grass and brush on the corner of Eberly Rd and Silver Lake Rd it is difficult to see vehicles coming down Silver Lake Rd. I would recommend cutting down the tall grass and brush, and even bulldoze some of that steep slope further back so we can see oncoming traffic better. Also it might be a good idea to make that intersection a 3-Way Stop sign area, or put a Yield sign on Silver Lake Rd and College St in addition to the signs that say One Lane Bridge Ahead.

Roads need significant improvement and maintenance.

7. What should be the focus of Dayton's efforts? (Please select no more than 3)

Beautify downtown business area	43
Improve Town appearance along VA 42	48

Improve appearance of neighborhoods/housing	39
Move power lines underground in downtown and older residential sections	50
Improve Town infrastructure (sidewalks, water treatment, flood mitigation, street lights, etc.)	104
Add/Increase recreational activities and town events	21
Emphasize preservation and recognition of historic landmarks	35
Attract new businesses and restaurants	63
Promote local shopping and support of local businesses	33
Increase local job opportunities	11
Increase revenue sources from industry and larger businesses	21
Other: (See Below)	19
Wise, prudent handling of Town funds/assets in relation to the above	
Connectors-Greenway	
Clean and beautify Silver Lake, make more attractive. Increase tax for pet owners.	
Make poultry plant cover outside of buildings to make facing VA 42 more attractive.	
Encourage poultry plant to make their building along Mosby Rd. on VA 42 more attractive	
Create sledding hill in winter	
Greenway Project	
Attract new businesses and restaurants, promote local shopping and support of local businesses, increase local job opportunity	
All of these are important and need community effort	
None	
Get the company in front of Dayton on Silver Lake just before the Mill to clean up. It's a mess!	
None	
Honor our Senior Adults on their Birthday if over a certain age (80+) with card/letter. (What you do for veterans is great!) Thank-you	
Local Book Store and Vegetarian Restaurant	
Keep Dayton quiet, esp. on Sundays. Do not promote as a tourist destination unless you want more traffic headaches	

Before trying to increase revenue sources, determine how MUCH you want to gain. Measure that against what you receive from a "typical" business, and determine how many you need to achieve that goal.
I feel like we are doing very well in all of these areas.
A small grocery would be so nice (not another farmers' market/bulk foods type though)
Place signs near Cooks Creek park to save the ducks people keep running over :(

8. Please use the space below to share any additional comments about your vision for Dayton.
Consideration of a 3-way stop where traffic converges near cooks creek bridge. Drivers approaching from Silver Lake Rd do not always slow down.
Great town! We love it here!
FYI Town does a great job with mowing and snow removal on the roads. That is very much appreciated!
Fantastic town. We love being a part of it and look forward to raising a family here.
We love the small town feel. The horse cards are so wonderful. We really love it here and would be happy to help make it beautiful with yardscaping projects and painting. Lets organize some groups to do some projects. Lets keep Dayton a bedroom community and great place to live.
I enjoy Dayton being a bedroom community of single family home. What makes life enjoyable is that housing is not on top of each other. I also would like to thank our police department for the great work they do. I would like to see Dayton organize a clean up your town day. Big group could cut grass, pull weeds, paint, and generally make Dayton better. After do a concert at the park.
Do we really need a greenway? Or will it be a failure like the park on Bowman?
Monday is not a good day for lawn waste pickup. usually one is better dressed on Sunday eve and must change to place waste at curb on Sunday.
Residents should pay more attention to their dog's behavior, on Thompson St. there are dogs that come in the morning and poops on my property and the owner does not take the excrement. Also when people are walking dogs scare them. Trash cans should be pick soon after they are empties. Finally trailers should not be parking on street (Thompson St.) and on Alley (Ellm) too much branches trees come to the drivers way. All these is in consideration of walkers lovers and safety for drivers.
Bigger is not better. Take care of residents by building sidewalks throughout town. Enforce ordinances forcing junky neighbors to clean up. Grass is not greener on the other side. Do not feel council represents residents best interests. They all have lofty agendas using taxpayers money. Serve your constituents, learn to listen not dictate your will. No representation!
Summer or fall yard sale in addition to spring yard sale.
We, along with our neighbors would love to see an additional community yard sale date, maybe in summer or fall, in addition to the one in May.

Sidewalks on Ashby st for the school kids safety and sidewalks on westview st. because of the high amount of traffic on it, especially large trucks and tractors.
I appreciate this small town- I think of it as nostalgic. I like all of the events and appreciate the time it takes to plan them. I appreciate our law enforcement paroling the streets.
It's a lovely town and I appreciate the police presence. I also appreciate the council's accessibility for those who are interested.
Love music at the Pavilion.
Appreciate the summer music.
We really like Dayton. Small town, quiet! Smell from the turkey factory is bad some days, can it be helped.
No comment
We are not B'water which trying to be in the same class as them. We moved here for small town and you want to urbanize it! Make the most of what a small town is and get over "big" is better. We are just a town between H'burg and B'water with 3 annoying stoplights.
Provide taxi service to elderly who live alone and don't drive.
I have noticed many cars park on Main st in business area for long periods of time. 2 hour parking should be for all cars.
Widen lanes on Main St. To narrow now. Some vehicles are not parked near enough to the curb currently.
Include in your newsletter a request that each dog/cat owner has to watch after their pet and pick up all poop! If they won't-they should be fined! or...
Have a walking trail between Dayton and Bridgewater. Provide for future revenue growth by attracting new businesses.
Buggy route/bicycle land on John Wayland Hwy North to Walmart. Do something about cars going by old Dr. Huffman instead of using the stop light. Put a stop light there, too.
Push S.King to put the buggy/bicycle lane in/along/or John Wayland Hwy north to Walmart. Extend water and sewer north on route 42 up to county city limits-take into the Town of Dayton this section. Make Dayton more senior citizen friendly.
So very sad to see in today's (9-11-17) DNR "Thank you to 1st responders supplement". The pitiful thank you from the Town of Dayton. The size, no names is an embarrassment to the citizens of Dayton!! We citizens thank the Police Dept. even if our Town officials can't afford to say it.
The greenway proposal is very exciting. It would be great to promote safe walking and biking. The town should also promote itself as a cycling destination. There is parking and bathrooms at cooks creek and might be a good place for cyclists to meet to begin their rides. Dayton could work with the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition for ideas. Extend buggy/bike lanes into Harrisonburg.
Mini Golf Course would be nice. Greenway-A waste of tax payer money.
Control odors from turkey processing plant. Especially in summer. phew!
I recently relocated to Vero Beach, FL, but during my tenure in Dayton I simply loved living there!! Neighbors always willing to help, law enforcement always willing and able to help! I will miss my friends and Dayton. Sharon Annhayman formerly: 203 Bartley St.
A system to check on older residents-especially those that live alone.

1. I really appreciate the trash collections.
2. The winter snow removal is fantastic! :) Keep up the good work!
3. A sidewalk from the slab over to old 42, then back toward the cannon beside Ft. Harrison would be really nice- would make a great walking loop.
4. make a walking path on the old rail road tracks back to Bridgewater.
5. Really appreciate the town newsletters.
6. Really really appreciate the frequent police patrols. :)

I like how the town is future-focused. Let's keep it up. Fix infrastructure and focus on the small town feel and downtown too. Keep attracting the next generation while continuing to build community.

Keep Dayton a small and well kept town and maintained.

I feel our community is doing well with all the things listed under strengths and assets. we have a great little town, just keep up the good jobs you are doing.

It is ironic that you want to spend thousands on a greenway to bring people to "downtown" when "downtown" has a major flooding problem you won't fix. The shortest distance from Mill to Market is College and Main St. Clean up and repair sidewalks and lighting! Less money-simplest plan. A "greenway" is a path by water, not through town!

I am so thankful to be living in such a kind and wonderful community. The police doing welfare checks on senior citizens just warms my heart.

Very quaint town. Glad we recycle!

Tax breaks for neighborhoods that form homeowners associations and do block-level cleanup/fixups (landscaping, painting, etc.)

My step-father (R.Z.Arey) was mayor of Bridgewater for many years. He prided their town on cleanliness and the snow removal crew. I think Dayton overall has those same assets. I love living here, and am thankful for fair taxes, and the consistent presence of our law enforcement. I hope (if one day) the Dayton Learning Center ever closes, per say, it isn't turned into a apartment complex. Please use it to benefit the community in a positive way, if possible! I hope one day the East-side will look as good as Willow West! :)

Love the flower pots!! Dayton Muddler is wonderful!!! Dayton Days too. Love the concerts and movies-these are wonderful events!

Thanks for Charles, Bobby, and council. I know you all have a hard job. Betty Campbell.

Cats should not be permitted to run free. I enjoy my birds as much as they enjoy their cats. Maintain small town atmosphere.

We could use a bed and breakfast location to emphasize tourism and attract visitors to stay and enjoy Dayton instead of Harrisonburg. Need marked speed limit signs in Willow West. My very small children are constantly on the lookout of certain speeding vehicles. An accident could very well happen. These "children at play" warning signs could attract even more young families and grow the town's safety. Update downtown lighting with a historic feel, like Staunton. Families would be invited to walk to outdoor night events or walk to get a local dinner at a Dayton restaurant.

Improve drug problems

Glad we are a part of Dayton and not H'burg. Don't like paying taxes twice-to town and county. Love Dayton farmers market; hope it stays.

Very pleased. friendly people. feel safe living here.

I applaud your 30m plus fix for surface water accumulation in front of new-2-me; hope you never spend the 400m to put water underground. all excess water events are short lived and can be tolerated.

Too much money on greenway.

Great snow removal and leaf pickup.

Keep up good work on policing the streets with visible police patrol. Great work on prompt snow removal and leaves! Keep good work of promoting friendliness of Town and people. Great park maintenance!

The town needs to work on attracting businesses to support the tax base. The property owned by Martin along 257 was supposed to be developed for business purposes, but is currently vacant and growing weeds/brush. work with them to try to sell or attract businesses.

I have concerns about the financial side of the town. Dayton continues to take on projects (parks, greenway, route 42) with no increase in businesses to help support tax growth. This summer I was very disappointed to see the lack of care given to our parks and town buildings. The grass at the parks and town hall were seldom mowed in a timely manner and all the beds were full of weeds. If we can't take care of what we have, how are we going to build a greenway and take care of it?

I love the initiatives and commitment to quality of life in our town exhibited by the town council. It is clear to me that we have conscientious council members who are committed to improving our town (that's not always been the case).

Need hanging flower pots on all telephone poles downtown until powerlines are placed underground. Encourage more golf cars which will enhance downtown. Downtown shops need to be open later. Have occasional open business with wine/beer tastings-different wines and local beers at each shop (unique and different) creating appeal. Closes streets for these temporary hours and tape off alcohol tastings.

Maintain some visual separation from Bridgewater and Harrisonburg. Some of the open/unbuilt space should be preserved. May require some help from the county.

Thankful for all you do!

Excellent stewardship and leadership in the last 10 years by the Town Council. Without the passion by Charles Long and Shelly Newman progress would not have become a reality. We are blessed to have them lead our community.

Continue Dayton Muddler

Continue Dayton Days

I am a native of North Carolina who bought my first ever home in Dayton! The community, safety, and history here are amazing. I also enjoy the country view here on the edge of Dayton going into Harrisonburg. I hope this area can stay agricultural and residential and not be developed by the sprawl of business over the next few years. Thank you for the excellent and affordable community services.

Sunset drive needs repaired from Thompson Street to Route 257.

Realign intersection of college and bowman rd. Take out that median at least reduce it so milk trucks and feed trucks can enter Bowman without running onto the sidewalk. Make bridge over Cooks Creek two lanes. High priority above the walking path from Silver Lake Mill to Cooks Creek Park.

The greenway would be extraordinary for Dayton! Look at Luray's greenway as an outstanding example of what can be done!!

I have lived in Dayton my entire life, and I would like to see Dayton keep its small town feel, because I love it here the way it is now.

I'd like to see Dayton remain a small town. I love it the way it is.

What do we offer our citizen on a daily basis as far as recreation? Who will the Greenway benefit? Business traffic is in town or to the south of town? Increase amount of sidewalks. Work at keeping up what we already have. Are the summer events successful as far as money spent vs. outcome in the end?

The churches in and around the Dayton area have helped to add to the quality of life we enjoy. We are blessed to be surrounded with the faith of our Mennonite Community. Through a sign, banner, or electronic device could Dayton let others know this is part of our heritage--this would be my vision for our town. This should be an encouragement to those passing by our town, but not from the churches, rather from "who we are". (If legality is a concern, contact: LibertyCounsel.org)

Events in Spanish!

Sooner or later Dayton should begin acknowledging that we are a culturally diverse town- And not everyone is a Christian. Please stop sponsoring the "Christmas" parade- if you must, make it a holiday parade. Also, begin advertising summer events in Spanish.

maintain the small town feel

After 10 years in Dayton, I'm proud of the work the Town Council has tried to do to make Dayton more than just a stop on the way to Bridgewater or Harrisonburg. The single greatest strength of Dayton is the quaint, walkable feel of the town. It's really time to move on a pedestrian walkway that ties together Silver Lake to downtown. Perhaps a modestly-designed loop north on Main, around Silver Lake, and then something that cuts south through to the water treatment plant and then back into town? Seems to me there was an exploratory survey done, but anything come of that? Thanks for the chance to share my thoughts.

Basically keep and improve on what is already here. Making major additions and changes will ruin the uniqueness and special quality of life we enjoy here.

Decisions EVENTUALLY get made, but almost NOTHING gets done in a timely manner. It's embarrassing, especially against the backdrop of Bridgewater's abilities to accomplish things.

Like to see food related events. BBQ or chili cook offs, food truck rodeo, etc...

Dayton has many long time residents, keeping it small but adding things for our own residents to enjoy. The parks are nice but we have enough, please add something to enjoy during the winter months

We love the town of Dayton. Really enjoy the summer concerts and movies.

I really like the quaint, small-town feel of Dayton. However, the sidewalks aren't that good, The Parks aren't anything to write home about, and the fact that we have one or two restaurants that are mediocre, means I pretty much leave town every evening that I want

to do something fun. I'd like to see more restaurants and businesses be drawn to Dayton, I'd like to see the sidewalks improved, and I'd like to see the parks and recreational opportunities increased greatly.

Couldn't something less stressful to adjoining neighbors be done to promote togetherness, rather than the current movie night? It's loud, and it's peculiar, and quite frankly, it's terribly unattractive and quickly becoming a parking lot at night.

I love the Dayton Muddler. Great cause & great community support.

Dayton is a charming small town that should be maintained as such. We do not need to be promoting industrial and commercial growth in our community. Please stop pursuing increases to the tax base by bringing in more commercial enterprises than our infrastructure can support. As a quaint bedroom community within close proximity to Harrisonburg we have easy access to jobs, education, and all of the goods and services we need.

Awesome town...Awesome people...wouldn't want to live anywhere else---My vision for Dayton would include the addition of a convenience store/gas station on the south side of town...maybe on 252

I love my town. We need to make every effort to smoothly transition from who we were to who we want to become. We need to seek businesses in industries that can take advantage of our placement among the local universities and technical schools.

Free recreational activities like a Par3 would be awesome.

Harrisonburg Construction is pleased to be located in the town of Dayton.

Dayton is a wonderful place to raise a family. I've basically lived here my whole life (with a five year stint in Briery Branch) I think Dayton continues to move in the right direction. I currently Live on the out-skirts of Dayton.

I don't know much about the future greenway, would like to get some info about that, but that would be very nice! Main St in the downtown area is very narrow, I actually try to avoid even driving there, so if there was a way to widen it a foot or two that would be nice, or limit parking to one side only and provide more off street parking. Probably not much you can do, I guess they didn't have setback rules back then, but it seems very narrow to me. Overall I am very impressed with Dayton, great place to live, and I love the Dayton Tavern and The Shops at Dayton Farmers Market!

Explore some potential ideas to promote cost savings for citizens; Antenna repeater on water tower for better TV antenna reception, town internet or community wifi, use of wellness facilities at town office, bulk propane purchasing plan for town citizens to buy down pricing- create a bidding war with Holtzman and Quarles.