

LINDENHURST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



2022 DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY OF RESPONSES



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INTRODUCTION

In 2015, the Lindenhurst Economic Development Committee asked the community to participate in a survey to get feedback on the state of the Village's downtown business district. The downtown is defined as North and South Wellwood Avenues between Gates and Fremont and East and West Hoffman Avenues between North 5th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Overall, there seemed to be a negative perspective towards the downtown. The quality of the downtown was rated at a 5 on the 2015 survey, with 3 and 4, respectively, being the other top responses. This rating has improved with 2022 survey, with the highest rating being an 8, with 6 and 7 to follow. The 2015 and 2022 surveys did draw some parallels when it came to negative feelings towards vacancies and parking in the downtown.

This summary provides an in-depth look at the responses received. The summary is broken down by several categories including demographics, current view of the downtown, and activity in the downtown. The top five answers are displayed for the long form answers. The complete list is available at the end of this summary. There is also a comparison portion between the 2015 survey responses and the update survey.

The 2022 survey received 416 responses from residents, business owners, and those living outside of Lindenhurst. This was less than the original survey, which received 633 responses.

The survey is comprised of 23 questions. The questions are a mix of multiple choice, yes or no, and long form. Name, address, and email address were optional for responses. As the survey progresses, there is a noticeable drop in responses, which is why readers of this summary will see a significant decrease in the number of responses for long form questions.

Overall, the information obtained from both the 2015 and 2022 is extremely useful in determining a direction for focus, funding, and future development in the Village's downtown business district.

2022 SURVEY RESPONSES

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

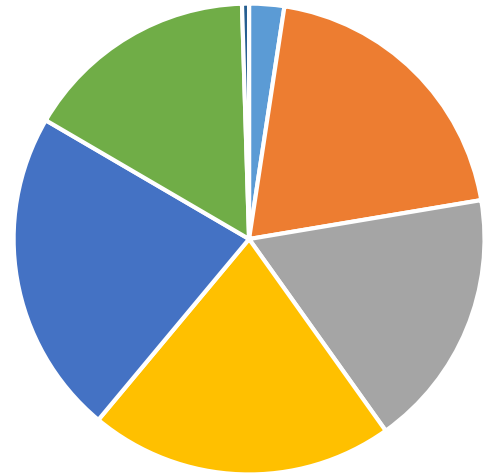
#4. AGE:

Answer

- 56-64
- 46-55
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 65+
- 18-25
- No Answer

Number of Responses

93
87
83
74
67
10
2



■ 18-25 ■ 26-35 ■ 36-45 ■ 46-55 ■ 56-64 ■ 65+ ■ No Answer

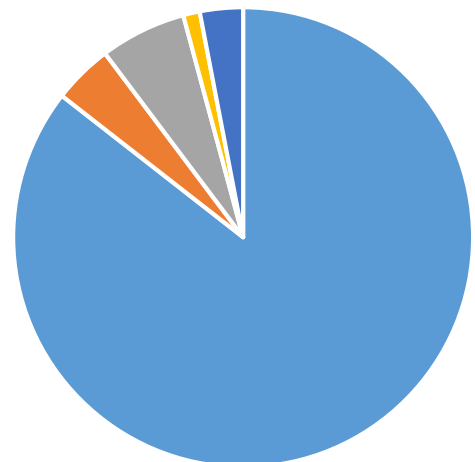
#5. RESIDENCY STATUS (check all that apply):

Answer

- Homeowner
- Renter
- Business Owner
- Lives Outside of Lindenhurst
- Business Property Owner

Number of Response

367
26
18
13
5

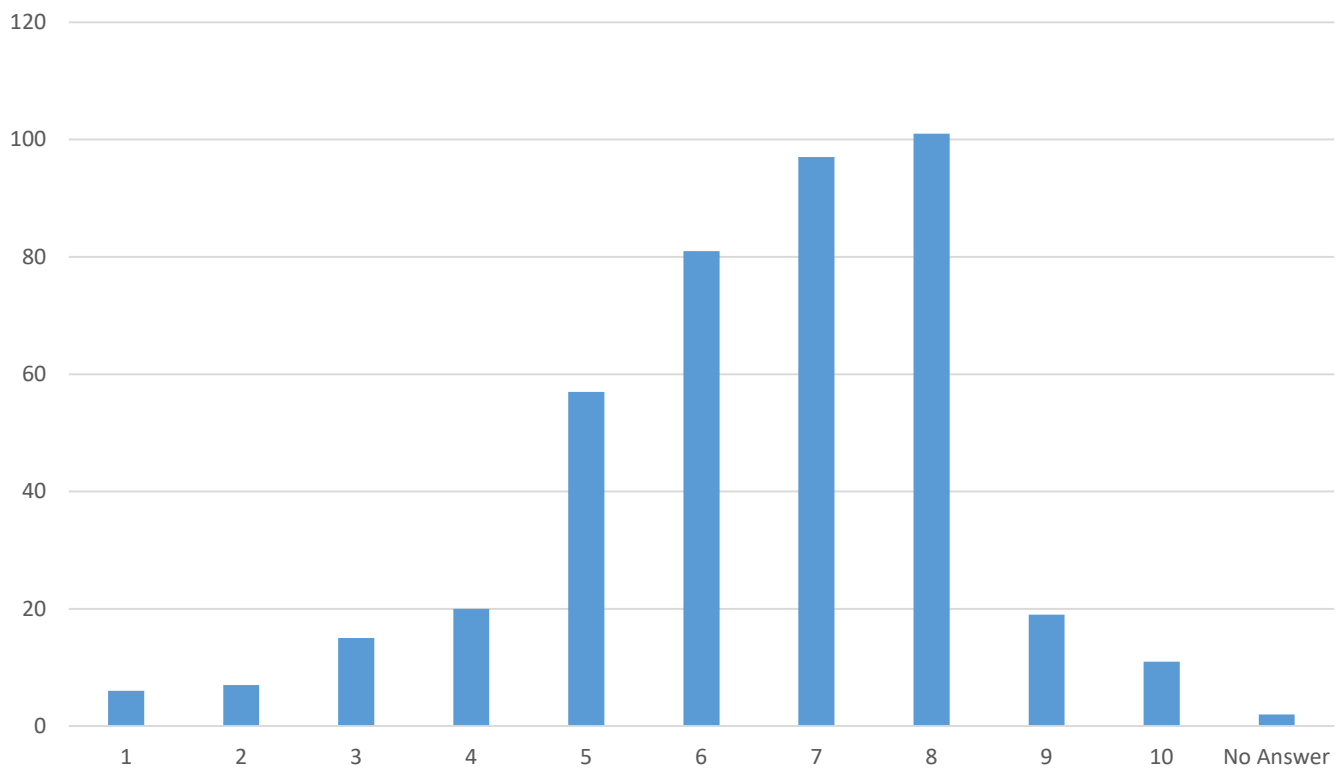


■ Homeowner ■ Business Owner
■ Renter ■ Business Property owner
■ Lives Outside of Lindenhurst

CURRENT VIEWS OF THE DOWNTOWN

#6. If you were to rate the quality of Lindenhurst's business district, including Wellwood and Hoffman Avenues, how would you rate it on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being very desirable and 1 being least desirable?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ 8	101
▪ 7	97
▪ 6	81
▪ 5	57
▪ 4	20
▪ 9	19
▪ 3	15
▪ 10	11
▪ 2	7
▪ 1	6
▪ No Answer	2



#7. Would you say the downtown business district has improved over the last several years?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Yes	101
▪ No	34
▪ No Answer	2

#8. What are things you like about the downtown business district? (top five answers displayed)

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Restaurants	236
▪ New Businesses	64
▪ Downtown Events	63
▪ Breweries	60
▪ Gazebo/Village Square	59

#9. What are things you do not like about the downtown business district? (top five answers displayed)

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Empty Storefronts	122
▪ Parking	89
▪ Lack of a Grocery Store	44
▪ Empty Stores by 711	38
▪ Waldbaums Property	33

#10. What type of business, commercial or entertainment activities, would you like to see in the downtown business district?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Grocery Store	185
▪ Restaurants	98
▪ More Retail	50
▪ Activities for Kids/Teens	31
▪ More Entertainment	29

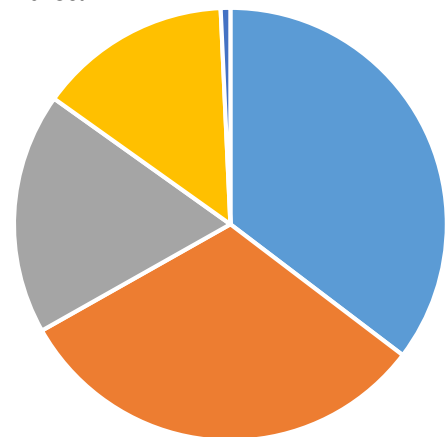
ACTIVITY IN THE DOWNTOWN

#11. Would you spend more time in the Village's business district if there were more activities related to the theatre/arts in the downtown?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Yes	303
▪ No	102
▪ No Answer	11

#12. How often do you frequent the restaurants in the Village of Lindenhurst?

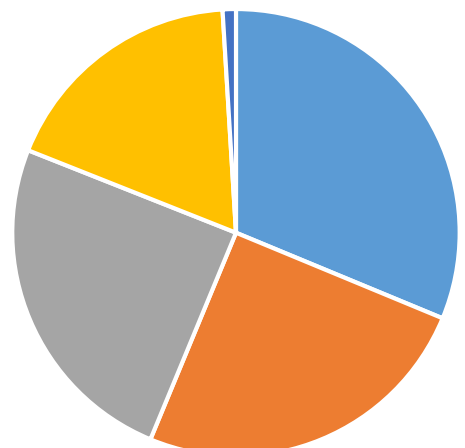
<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Multiple Times a Month	147
▪ Once a Month	131
▪ Once a Week	75
▪ Hardly Ever	60
▪ No Answer	3



■ Multiple Times a Month ■ Once a Month
 ■ Once a Week ■ Hardly Ever
 ■ No Answer

#13. How often do you frequent the shops or other services in the Village of Lindenhurst?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Hardly Ever	130
▪ Once a Month	104
▪ Multiple Times a Month	103
▪ Once a Week	75
▪ No Answer	4



■ Hardly Ever ■ Once a Month
 ■ Multiple Times a Month ■ Once a Week
 ■ No Answer

#14. Is there anything that would improve the frequency of your visits to the downtown business district?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Parking Improvements	68
▪ More Shops	53
▪ Grocery Store	38
▪ More Restaurants	29
▪ More Diversity/Variety of Businesses	20

#15. Do you take a bike downtown?

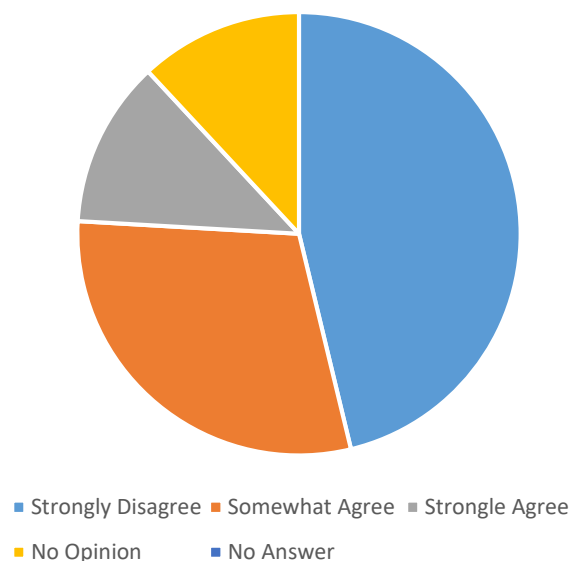
<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ No	323
▪ Yes	91
▪ No Answer	2

Would you be more likely to do so if there was a designated bikeway?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ No	227
▪ Yes	183
▪ No Answer	6

#16. Please rate how you feel about the following statement: “The Village of Lindenhurst needs more housing options to keep/attract people to stay/live in our community”?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Strong Disagree	190
▪ Somewhat Agree	122
▪ Strongly Agree	50
▪ No Opinion	49
▪ No Answer	5



#17. What type of housing would you like to see? (check all that apply):

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Other (please specify)	160
▪ Mixed Use	101
▪ Condos/Townhouses	99
▪ No Answer	96
▪ Senior Housing	57
▪ Workforce Housing	39
▪ Market Rate Rentals	35
▪ No Answer	96

The top five answers for the choice of “Other (please specify)” were:

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ No More Housing	50
▪ Affordable Housing Options	18
▪ Single Family Houses	13
▪ Houses (not specified)	5
▪ Ownership Based Housing	4

#18. When you visit the downtown, do you generally visit multiple locations?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Yes	251
▪ No	158
▪ No Answer	7

#19. Do you ever participate/attend any of the events held at the Village Square (gazebo)?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Yes	348
▪ No	60
▪ No Answer	8

#20. Would more activities/events in the downtown increase the likelihood of you visiting the downtown business district?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Yes	350
▪ No	58
▪ No Answer	8

#21. What types of activities/events would you like to see in the downtown business district?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ More Concerts	76
▪ More Street Fairs	57
▪ Farmers Market	35
▪ More Block Parties	32
▪ Family Friendly Activities	30

#22. What other suggestions would you make to enhance/improve the downtown business district?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Improve Parking	19
▪ More Traffic Control	18
▪ Increase Pedestrian Safety	16
▪ Fill Empty Stores	14
▪ Better Variety to Businesses	13
▪ Grocery Store	13
▪ More Plantings/Flowers/Trees	13
▪ Update Storefronts	13

#23. What form of communication do you think is the most effective means of contacting people?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Number of Response</u>
▪ Facebook	147
▪ E-mail	128
▪ Mail	117
▪ Newspaper	6
▪ No Answer	8

COMPARISON OF RESPONSES FROM 2015 TO 2022

OVERVIEW

This section will compare the responses between the 2015 survey and the 2022 survey.

The 2015 survey requested more information pertaining to demographics such as gender, marital status, household income, and employment status. The 2022 survey had additional questions regarding the downtown that focused on the attendance of events/activities in the downtown.

Provided below is an in-depth comparison of the responses obtained in the two surveys. The top five answers will be provided for long answer questions and all responses will be displayed for the pre-selected response questions. Questions that are not present on both surveys will be omitted from the comparison.

The top answer for 2015 responses is highlighted in green and the top answer for 2022 is highlighted in blue.

It is important to note that when the 2015 survey was put out, Waldbaums had not closed down yet and the Tritec development had not started construction.

In addition to an overall comparison of responses, a comparison was able to be made for individuals that filled out both the 2015 and the 2022 survey. Generally, there seems to be an increase in positive feelings towards the downtown in these side by side comparisons.

There were 633 responses to the 2015 survey and 416 to the 2022 survey.

COMPARISON OF 2015 AND 2022 SURVEY RESPONSES

Age:

<u>Answer</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2022</u>
▪ 18-25	16	10
▪ 26-35	64	83
▪ 36-45	111	74
▪ 46-55	181	87
▪ 56-64	139	93
▪ 65+	109	67
▪ No Answer	13	2

Residency Status:

<u>Answer</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2022</u>
▪ Homeowner	571	367
▪ Renter	34	26
▪ Business Owner	19	18
▪ Lives Outside of Lindenhurst	N/A	13
▪ Business Property Owner	10	5

If you were to rate the quality of Lindenhurst's Business district, including Wellwood and Hoffman Avenues, how would you rate it on a scale of 1 – 10, with 10 being very desirable and 1 being least desirable?:

<u>Answer</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2022</u>
▪ 1	48	6
▪ 2	86	7
▪ 3	117	15
▪ 4	103	20
▪ 5	124	57
▪ 6	63	81
▪ 7	51	97
▪ 8	17	101
▪ 9	3	19
▪ 10	4	11
▪ No Answer	14	2

What are things you like about the downtown business district? (top five answers displayed)

<u>2015 Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
▪ No Answer	137
▪ Restaurants	98
▪ Bakeries	89
▪ Stores	72
▪ Quaint/Small Town Atmosphere	63

<u>2022 Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
▪ Restaurants	236
▪ New Businesses	64
▪ Downtown Events	63
▪ Breweries	60
▪ Gazebo/Village Square	59

What are things you do not about the downtown business district? (top five answers displayed)

<u>2015 Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
▪ Empty Stores/Vacancies	273
▪ Lack of Parking	201
▪ Need Better Quality Shops/Restaurants	101
▪ No Answer	68
▪ Trashy Bars	51

<u>2022 Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
▪ Empty Storefronts	122
▪ Parking	89
▪ Lack of a Grocery Store	44
▪ Empty Stores by 711	38
▪ Waldbaums Property	33

What type of business, commercial or entertainment activities, would you like to see in the downtown business district?

<u>2015 Answer*</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
▪ Restaurants	470
▪ Coffee Shops	442
▪ More Parking	430
▪ Entertainment/Activities	357
▪ Night Life Options	307

<u>2022 Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
▪ Grocery Store	185
▪ Restaurants	98
▪ More Retail	50
▪ Activities for Kids/Teens	31
▪ More Entertainment	29

*The 2015 survey had pre-written responses for this question. People filling out the survey could select as many choices as they wanted. The version of this question in the 2022 survey allowed those filling out the survey to write their own choices.

How often do you frequent the restaurants in the Village of Lindenhurst?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2022</u>
▪ Hardly Ever	331	60
▪ Once a Month	159	131
▪ Few Times a Month	78	147
▪ Once a Week	51	75
▪ No Answer	14	3

How often do you frequent the shops or other services in the Village of Lindenhurst?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2022</u>
▪ Hardly Ever	294	130
▪ Once a Month	112	104
▪ Few Times a Month	101	103
▪ Once a Week	116	75
▪ No Answer	10	4

Is there anything that would improve the frequency of your visits to the downtown business district?

<u>2015 Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
▪ No Answer	156
▪ Restaurants	114
▪ Better Quality Businesses	87
▪ Variety in Stores Offered	73
▪ Bars/Night Life	50

<u>2022 Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
▪ Parking Improvements	68
▪ More Shops	53
▪ Grocery Store	38
▪ More Restaurants	29
▪ More Diversity/Variety of Businesses	20

Please rate how you feel about the following statement: “The Village of Lindenhurst needs more housing options to keep/attract people to stay/live in our community”?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2022</u>
▪ Strongly Disagree	260	190
▪ Somewhat Agree	180	122
▪ Strongly Agree	101	50
▪ No Opinion	76	49
▪ No Answer	16	5

What type of housing would you like to see? (check all that apply):

<u>Answer</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2022</u>
▪ Mixed Use*	--	101
▪ Condos/Townhouses	232	99
▪ Senior Housing	119	57
▪ Workforce Housing	78	39
▪ Market Rate Rentals	78	35
▪ Affordable Housing**	123	--
▪ Other (please specify)	122	160
▪ No Answer	154	96

*Mixed Use – this option was not listed on the 2015 survey.

**Affordable Housing – this option was not listed on the 2022 survey.

What other suggestions would you make to enhance/improve the downtown business district?

<u>2015 Answer</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
▪ No Answer	239
▪ Create more Aesthetic Appeal	51
▪ Fill Empty Stores	45
▪ More Municipal Parking	44
▪ Restaurants	43

2022 Answer

▪ Improve Parking	19
▪ More Traffic Control	18
▪ Increase Pedestrian Safety	16
▪ Fill Empty Stores	14
▪ Better Variety to Businesses	13

What form of communication do you think is the most effective means of contacting people?

<u>Answer</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2022</u>
▪ Facebook	237	147
▪ E-Mail	224	128
▪ Mail	402	117
▪ Newspaper	188	6
▪ No Answer	14	8

INDIVIDUAL COMPARISON OF RESPONSES

RESPONDENT #1

Residency Status

2015 – Homeowner

2022 – Homeowner

If you were to rate the quality of Lindenhurst's Business district, including Wellwood and Hoffman Avenues, how would you rate it on a scale of 1 – 10, with 10 being very desirable and 1 being least desirable?:

2015 – 1

2022 - 5

What are things you like about the downtown business district

2015 – The library, Cieslak's bakery, Village Lanterne, Villa Gaia, Village Green

2022 – SoSveglio, Village Pizza, Muni's, Cieslak's Bakery

What are things you do not about the downtown business district?

2015 – Not enough variety of stores. Nothing is outstanding. Stores are too spread out. Need to drive to go to stores on the north end.

2022 – It's not very walkable. I would like to see better walkability to the businesses on Hoffman

What type of business, commercial or entertainment activities, would you like to see in the downtown business district?

2015 – Restaurants, night life options, coffee shops, fast food, more parking, health food store, general food store, specialty food store, Trader Joe's, Uncle G's

2022 - A SUPERMARKET and possibly other food stores! Independent book store, ice cream shop or cafe for desserts and goodies. Fewer cell phone stores! A movie theatre!

How often do you frequent the restaurants in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Once a Month

2022 – Once a Week

How often do you frequent the shops or other services in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Hardly Ever

2022 – Hardly Ever

Is there anything that would improve the frequency of your visits to the downtown business district?

2015 – More unique shops and stores, restaurants, activities, night life.

2022 - It needs to be more pleasant of a walk. We go to Villa pizza often but there's nothing nearby that we want to walk to. Also too much traffic, speeding, and horn honking.

Please rate how you feel about the following statement: "The Village of Lindenhurst needs more housing options to keep/attract people to stay/live in our community"?

2015 – Strongly Agree

2022 – Strongly Disagree

What type of housing would you like to see? (check all that apply):

2015 – Workforce Housing, Condos/Townhouses

2022 – Condos/Townhouses

What other suggestions would you make to enhance/improve the downtown business district?

2015 – Merchants need to be attracted by lower rents and/or taxes.

2022 – We need to take the “IDA” idea to help the merchants not the landlords!! People who have a dream business that they’d love to open in their hometown!

What form of communication do you think is the most effective means of contacting people?

2015 – Mail, newspaper, e-mail, Facebook

2022 - Mail

RESPONDENT #2

Residency Status

2015 – N/A

2022 - Homeowner

If you were to rate the quality of Lindenhurst's Business district, including Wellwood and Hoffman Avenues, how would you rate it on a scale of 1 – 10, with 10 being very desirable and 1 being least desirable?:

2015 – 2

2022 - 3

What are things you like about the downtown business district

2015 – The bakeries are great, Bailey's Comics, library, Village Lanterne, Villa Gaia, Village Green/Gazebo and the various events. Used to love spoon, the curiosity shop was nice.

2022 – The theatres, Muni's, WA Meadworks, comic store

What are things you do not about the downtown business district?

2015 – Too many pizza places. There is really nothing that sets our village apart. There is no reason to come from elsewhere. Except maybe Bailey's not every town has a comic shop. There are so many empty storefronts.

2022 - The center of town is mainly taken up by the boring office storefronts like lawyers/finance/politicians. Those are places that you'd probably go straight to and then leave without any reason to walk elsewhere.

What type of business, commercial or entertainment activities, would you like to see in the downtown business district?

2015 - Restaurants, night life options, art studios, coffee shops, fast food, more parking, clothing stores, health food store, specialty food store, entertainment/activities

2022 - More independent niche shops. The nicest reasons to stroll Main Street in towns like Huntington and Babylon are the specialty shops. The places that you wouldn't necessarily visit on their own but you'd love to pop into while you're near. Places like antiques/thrift/curiosity shops, bookstore, art/music supply, pets gifts/supplies, a marketplace or grocery store, drug shop/ general store. The types of places that have momentarily showed up on Wellwood before closing because of high rent or taxes. A cafe like Spoon with evening hours and open mic nights. A really great ice cream parlor. Collective space like a galleria for creators similar to those at that one-night-a-year Bizarre Bazaar that was at the Fireman's Park pavilion. That night was so much fun. A variety of unique places would make a stroll through the downtown into an activity rather than an errand. I would go there all the time.

How often do you frequent the restaurants in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Hardly Ever

2022 – Hardly Ever

How often do you frequent the shops or other services in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Hardly Ever

2022 – Hardly Ever

Is there anything that would improve the frequency of your visits to the downtown business district?

2015 –We need our Village to attract people from other towns so that individual boutique shops can survive. Bookshop, niche stores. Maybe one unique chain. I drive to Farmingdale for Chipotle. Other people would drive here for something similar.

2022 - Way more public walkways that connect Wellwood to the municipal lots. People think there's no parking, but it's just really inconvenient to hike from the municipal lots to one of the very few connecting alleyways, and then back to the store you actually wanted to visit.

Please rate how you feel about the following statement: "The Village of Lindenhurst needs more housing options to keep/attract people to stay/live in our community"?

2015 – Somewhat Disagree

2022 – Somewhat Agree

What type of housing would you like to see? (check all that apply):

2015 – No Answer

2022 – Condos/Townhouses

What other suggestions would you make to enhance/improve the downtown business district?

2015 – The Village is divided by the train tracks. We need to unify it. I never walk between both halves of downtown. Restrictions must be tightened on landlords so that interesting businesses could afford to come and stay in Lindenhurst. We need another movie theatre or bowling alley. Somewhere kids can hang out without having to eat. We really need more places to have fun. Also the unused church property need to be purchased or utilized. Too much of the main street is empty.

2022 – Unify the four quadrants of town. Hoffman Avenue feels like a division of the downtown rather than a part of it. I don't know a single person who would walk left or right when they get to that street. And I only know a handful of people who would cross under the train tracks to get to the second half of Wellwood. I think that Lindy would benefit from elements of this new downtown unification/revitalization model that was pioneered in Lancaster, CA. It then went viral online, which is how I learned about it. According to the report "within four years, [the project] attracted \$130 million in private investment and generated \$273 million in economic output." If you're interested I can send you the link you to the full report. To whomever reads all of this: I want to apologize for my lengthy answers and thank you for time both in asking and hearing the people of Lindy. I care so much about Lindenhurst and I'd love to stroll down Wellwood again.

What form of communication do you think is the most effective means of contacting people?

2015 – Mail, newspaper, email, Facebook

2022 – Mail

RESPONDENT #3

Residency Status

2015 – Homeowner

2022 - Homeowner, Business Owner

If you were to rate the quality of Lindenhurst's Business district, including Wellwood and Hoffman Avenues, how would you rate it on a scale of 1 – 10, with 10 being very desirable and 1 being least desirable?:

2015 – 2

2022 - 5

What are things you like about the downtown business district

2015 – I like that fact that it is still a small town feeling. I have grown up here since I was born and have chosen to live here and raise a family. I like that I am finally seeing some of the buildings being rehabbed to more of a modern look.

2022 – I love the street fairs and upcoming walkability of the village

What are things you do not about the downtown business district?

2015 – I own an architecture firm in Lindenhurst and because of the crazy rents that the landlords ask for I chose to put my business on North Clinton Ave. in Lindenhurst. I would have loved to move into a space on Wellwood Avenue, but between the parking issue and the high rents for a non-desirable looking building doesn't thrill me in any way. I think the Village needs a uniform look going forward. I think that if building owners don't have the funds that there should be funds available to help rehab town. We need that small town feel here, which we don't have. My family and I more than less just go to Babylon Village to eat and hang out. It's not modern, or sophisticated looking, but it is clean and has a warm feeling to it. If you want to know what the Village should look like, just take a stroll through Babylon Village.

2022 - I believe we should put some type of moratorium on non-food establishments. We need businesses to draw people here. We do not need more hair salons, or nail salons, or financial services in the store fronts. Those business close at 5pm daily and it looks like Wall Street after 5pm. It makes it look vacant.

What type of business, commercial or entertainment activities, would you like to see in the downtown business district?

2015 - Restaurants, night life options, coffee shops, health food store, entertainment/activities, office buildings

2022- We need more food establishments, retail for people to want to come to. Ice cream shop, sneaker stores, retail spaces. Things that make the village more of a place that people say I want to go to that restaurant and then after they eat they can walk around to the retail stores. We need more involvement from the south side of the tracks as well. It's almost like the village stops at the tracks.

How often do you frequent the restaurants in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Hardly ever

2022 – Multiple Times a Month

How often do you frequent the shops or other services in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Hardly Ever

2022 – Hardly Ever

Is there anything that would improve the frequency of your visits to the downtown business district?

2015 – Basically the same as I state above. It needs a facelift. It needs more life. It needs outdoor seating allowed at its restaurants.

2022 – Same answer as number 10. Right now you go into town, eat and go home. We need to make it more walkable with more restaurants, retail (Clothes and specialty stores). Maybe a cigar lounge, and more than anything OUTDOOR seating for the food services. The outdoor seating makes it more inviting and interacting.

Please rate how you feel about the following statement: “The Village of Lindenhurst needs more housing options to keep/attract people to stay/live in our community”?

2015 – Somewhat Agree

2022 – Somewhat Agree

What type of housing would you like to see? (check all that apply):

2015 – Condos/Townhouses

2022 – Mixed Use (combined residential and commercial);

What other suggestions would you make to enhance/improve the downtown business district?

2015 – If you want people who have discretionary income to come to Lindenhurst, you have to offer sophisticated amenities. Wine bar, lounge, cigar lounge, nice trendy restaurants, etc. Let the people driving down the road be able to interact with the venues with outdoor seating, glass operable partition walls, etc. Remove the neon signs, make a universal signage, with gooseneck lights, etc. Like I said earlier, I have lived here my whole life, I remember when we had Carvel and Friendly’s, etc. I don’t remember there being 31 vacant stores in the Village from John Street to Gates. This Village needs an ARB Board. I believe we are the only Village of Long Island that does not have one. Most will complain about it, but all in all it’s a great thing to do. It makes people do the certain look and feel and keep it that way. I will end by saying this... I own a successful business here, a nice home and make a good living. My wife is the only reason I have not moved to Babylon Village. Things need to change before the people who you want living here decide to move on to other areas.

2022 – Nothing more than what I wrote above.

What form of communication do you think is the most effective means of contacting people?

2015 – Mail, e-mail, Facebook

2022 – Facebook

RESPONDENT #4

Residency Status

2015 – Homeowner

2022 – Homeowner, Business Owner

If you were to rate the quality of Lindenhurst's Business district, including Wellwood and Hoffman Avenues, how would you rate it on a scale of 1 – 10, with 10 being very desirable and 1 being least desirable?:

2015 – 1

2022 - 7

What are things you like about the downtown business district

2015 – I like the history retention that we used to have!

2022 – I like the filled store fronts and that the business owners are investing into the appearance Downtown Business District.

What are things you do not about the downtown business district?

2015 – All the stores are empty. We look run down and need positive re-enforcement. We have enough bars and drunks!

2022 - I do not like the vacant store fronts, it depletes the value of our village. Some store fronts are vacant for an excessive, unacceptable time frame. I believe vacant store front owners should be issued a significant fine for long duration vacancies. I also don't like the commercial deliveries taking place on the main strips. This makes our village look like the city. These large trucks block traffic in both directions, it's a frequent occurrence. Deliveries should take place at the back entrance of all businesses. Double parking, u-turns and turning over double yellow lines should not be permitted. These actions block traffic, create the potential for safety issues and depletes the appearance of our village, makes it looks low classed.

What type of business, commercial or entertainment activities, would you like to see in the downtown business district?

2015 - Restaurants, coffee shops, fast food, more parking, clothing stores, health food store, health and beauty spa, general food store, specialty food store, entertainment/activities, office buildings, other – lets mimic nautical mile in Freeport.

2022- A high-quality food store, located in our village would have me visit more frequently.

How often do you frequent the restaurants in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Hardly Ever

2022 – Multiple Times a Month

How often do you frequent the shops or other services in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Hardly Ever

2022 – Multiple Times a Month

Is there anything that would improve the frequency of your visits to the downtown business district?

2015 – Appearance, attractions, we've lost that warm town appeal

2022 – A high-quality food store, located in our village would have me visit more frequently.

Please rate how you feel about the following statement: “The Village of Lindenhurst needs more housing options to keep/attract people to stay/live in our community”?

2015 – Strongly Disagree

2022 – Strongly Disagree

What type of housing would you like to see? (check all that apply):

2015 – Other – none. Too many houses already available post Sandy. Get rid of Section 8 housing – that’s killing us also!

2022 – We have housing, need to stop over building.

What other suggestions would you make to enhance/improve the downtown business district?

2015 – We need honest people committed to this Village and its residents! Not public figures that are complacent and lie to us! Eliminate Section 8, no cell towers. We need our Village to be family oriented as it was, this will attract people. Bring Starbucks, Panera, successful franchises. Fairs, car washes, fests help, but we need more affordable family attractions like the Town of Babylon! More fishing attractions at Wellwood docks for children, adults and seniors. No bulkheading at Shore Road Park! We don’t want another Tanner Park! What about clam and oyster, winter fests in the Village? Roller rink at CVS? Seafood fests and so on! Advertise all the fests! What about silver sneaker workouts for seniors? Aerobics center.

2022 – I would make sure our video promoters choose appropriate music (maybe music without lyrics) for videos they are creating for us. The last video, the one song used was offensive, inappropriate and had nothing to do with what our Village is about. It gave the wrong impression at all levels. Made our village look trashy,

What form of communication do you think is the most effective means of contacting people?

2015 – Mail, Newspaper, E-Mail, Facebook

2022 – E-Mail

RESPONDENT #5

Residency Status

2015 – Homeowner

2022 – Homeowner

If you were to rate the quality of Lindenhurst's Business district, including Wellwood and Hoffman Avenues, how would you rate it on a scale of 1 – 10, with 10 being very desirable and 1 being least desirable?:

2015 – 6

2022 – 7

What are things you like about the downtown business district

2015 – Convenience of certain businesses and restaurants

2022 – Variety of options in restaurants

What are things you do not about the downtown business district?

2015 – Lack of parking, abundance of empty store fronts, seeming lack of pride by store owners to beautify the downtown area – especially shown by un-shoveled sidewalks after recent snowfalls!

2022 - Horrible parking situation, exacerbated by the fact that business owners park on Wellwood, often in front of other businesses! Take an example from Babylon and force business owners to park in the back of their establishments, rather than on Wellwood. In addition, over length vehicles should be prohibited from parking on Wellwood, as they create a traffic by sticking out into oncoming traffic. Something drastic needs to be done with the old Waldbaum's building! That is an eyesore, and I doubt that it even contributes to the tax base.

What type of business, commercial or entertainment activities, would you like to see in the downtown business district?

2015 - Restaurants, more parking, entertainment/activities

2022- Fewer nail salons and phone stores!

How often do you frequent the restaurants in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – A few times a month

2022 – Once a Month

How often do you frequent the shops or other services in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – A few times a month

2022 – Once a Week

Is there anything that would improve the frequency of your visits to the downtown business district?

2015 – Encourage store owners to keep their locations in the best possible condition. The Village should make the immediate removal of snow on Wellwood Avenue priority one after a snowfall. Piles of snow make the parking situation even worse, and many people are unable to get over or through the snow. In addition, the Village should fine store owners who do not comply with snow removal regulations.

2022 – See above

Please rate how you feel about the following statement: “The Village of Lindenhurst needs more housing options to keep/attract people to stay/live in our community”?

2015 – Strongly Disagree

2022 – Strongly Disagree

What type of housing would you like to see? (check all that apply):

2015 – None – leave open spaces be.

2022 – Single-unit residences

What other suggestions would you make to enhance/improve the downtown business district?

2015 – I have heard various business owners say that the Village is less than business-friendly, especially regarding code and regulation enforcement. Their level of dissatisfaction had even led them to consider moving out of Lindenhurst. Without knowing the specifics of these issues, I would offer no further comment, other than the hope for a strong, prosperous downtown business district, one driven by the joint efforts of both the business community and the Village. I wish the LEDC much success in this endeavor!

2022 – No response was written for this question

What form of communication do you think is the most effective means of contacting people?

2015 – Mail

2022 – E-Mail

RESPONDENT #6

Residency Status

2015 – Homeowner

2022 – Homeowner

If you were to rate the quality of Lindenhurst's Business district, including Wellwood and Hoffman Avenues, how would you rate it on a scale of 1 – 10, with 10 being very desirable and 1 being least desirable?:

2015 – 3

2022 – 7

What are things you like about the downtown business district

2015 – N/A

2022 – Walkable, many restaurants and bars

What are things you do not about the downtown business district?

2015 – No parking, too many empty stores, does not look pretty to walk streets

2022 – Lack of options beside restaurants and bars

What type of business, commercial or entertainment activities, would you like to see in the downtown business district?

2015 - Restaurants, night life options, more parking, clothing stores, entertainment/activities

2022- Supermarket, Small boutiques, kid friendly activities.

How often do you frequent the restaurants in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Hardly Ever

2022 – Multiple Times a Month

How often do you frequent the shops or other services in the Village of Lindenhurst?

2015 – Once a Week

2022 – Once a Month

Is there anything that would improve the frequency of your visits to the downtown business district?

2015 – More child and adult activities, family style restaurants (real restaurants, not chains)

2022 – More outdoor entertainment when weather permits

Please rate how you feel about the following statement: "The Village of Lindenhurst needs more housing options to keep/attract people to stay/live in our community"?

2015 – Somewhat Agree

2022 – Somewhat Agree

What type of housing would you like to see? (check all that apply):

2015 – Senior Housing

2022 – Mixed Use

What other suggestions would you make to enhance/improve the downtown business district?

2015 – Uniform store signs, everything looks dingy and old. Dress the town up.

2022 – No response was written for this question.

What form of communication do you think is the most effective means of contacting people?

2015 – Mail, E-Mail, Facebook

2022 – Facebook

CONCLUSION

COMMON SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE DOWNTOWN

Entertainment/Activities	Retail/Shopping	Parking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People want more reasons to come to the downtown outside of going out to eat. • Family friendly activities were repeatedly mentioned as something lacking in the downtown. • Suggestions include: comedy club, movie theatre, and bowling alley. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a desire for more retail in the downtown including clothing boutiques and gift shops. • It was frequently mentioned that a grocery store (large or small) is necessary to the downtown. • In addition, people would like to see more variety in the types of businesses that populate the downtown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People indicated that there is insufficient parking in the downtown. • Signage for parking that explains meter rules and free parking regulations is needed. • Angle of parking on Wellwood is dangerous. • Access to parking lots is limited from South Wellwood Avenue.

COMMON POSITIVES ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN



COMMON NEGATIVES ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN



COMMON NEGATIVE RESPONSES FROM RESPONDENTS WITH A DOWNTOWN RATING OF 5 OR BELOW

Empty Stores	Parking	Traffic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People feel that there is still a large number of vacant stores. • Recommended that development continue on Hoffman Avenue. • Specifically mentioned as being vacant too long were the strip of stores by 7/11, the bank, and the old Waldbaum's property. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People feel that there is not enough parking available. • Signage indicating municipal lots and regulations for parking are lacking. • Changes to metering system would be beneficial including the ability to put money in the meter from an app. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cars speeding through the downtown make pedestrians feel unsafe. • Congestion on Wellwood Avenue. • Moving violations including double parking and u-turns on Wellwood Avenue need to be enforced.

Overall, the public responded in a way that indicates a positive trend in feelings towards the current state of the downtown. Many of the top complaints are issues that are on their way to being resolved, such as the parking complaints.

Based on the responses gathered in the survey, people want more reasons to come to the downtown and socialize, shop, and eat. A trend amongst many of the responses is a desire for activities geared towards specific age groups (like children, teenagers, and young adults). Family oriented events would also be welcomed in conjunction with the much enjoyed existing downtown events like Wednesdays on Wellwood and the summer concert series.

In addition to increased activities in the downtown, people would like to see more retail including clothing boutiques and gift shops. Many of the businesses that were suggested to be added to the downtown already exist, such as theatres, coffee shops, and clothing boutiques. It was mentioned throughout the survey that people want to “make a day” of visiting the downtown by being able to browse multiple stores, visit a restaurant, and go to a show.

Housing remains a hot-button issue with many respondents rejecting the idea of additional larger scale housing options. Instead, single family residences were the recommended option for housing.

Promotion of the different businesses that exist in the downtown would be beneficial to the public. Along that same line, advertising parking fields and the rules that apply those lots would be helpful to both people unfamiliar with the area and residents.