

**Mentone Hometown Chat**  
**August 14, 2019**  
**Mentone, Indiana**

**Magic Wand Ideas**

1. New major employer jobs **4 Votes**
2. Housing options, Quality of Life enhancements and broadband **1 Vote**
3. Need for a long-range plan
4. Unlimited assets
5. Attract families to the community **1 Vote**
6. Housing rehab/incentives help
7. Landlord accountability (slum lords)
8. "Pot of Gold"
9. Industrial Park
10. More volunteers and engaged citizens for fire dept. and EMS and community
11. Social purpose to attract young people

**What do you like best about Mentone and Kosciusko County?**

1. Community comes together to do things
2. Quality of Life initiatives in all "K" county communities
3. Schools and small town attributes
4. Walkable community, can walk to work
5. Trails for walking
6. Sense of community, everyone watches out for each other
7. Good businesses and we have a grocery
8. Craft Museum, Aircraft Museum, Bell Museum
9. Just a part of me
10. Everybody knows everybody
11. Safe everybody cares
12. Festival and fibre coming in 3 years
13. Youth League
14. People pull together, reference to the storm
15. Park
16. Churches, fire, EMS all work together
17. We are on a good roll and have a good location
18. Variety of businesses
19. We have a library and they have good children's programs for all ages
20. Everybody works together
21. Active Chamber of Commerce
22. No traffic jams
23. The local elementary school newly rehabbed. Elementary prep to 5th grade
24. 6th and 8th go to Tippy Valley Middle School
25. 9-12 go to Tippy Valley Senior, and Burkett serves as an alternate school
26. Trusting community
27. We have a community building
28. Fish Frys

**What is missing?**

1. Park expansion, playground update, bigger pavilion and adaptive for all abilities **3 Votes**
2. Walking trail along the creek
3. Conveniences, and fast food restaurants
4. Retirement Housing, not a lot of choices **2 Votes**

5. Mentone is land-locked. There is no land to purchase for housing
6. Auto parts store
7. No Pharmacy
8. Lack of city funding
9. Sidewalks
10. Storm drain repair
11. No Plan
12. Need maintenance at the Cemetery **1 Vote**
13. Need to update blighted homes **1 Vote**
14. Workers and jobs
15. Children's programs and activities
16. Nothing for Tweeners and High Schoolers to do
17. Mentone is a poor community
18. Need daycare and childcare
19. Need cell and internet service
20. Emergency communications update
21. Trail on the Interurban line. NIPSCO right-of-way
22. Tree replacement (Trees Indiana and J. Chapman Foundation DC) **3 Votes**
23. Aging community, we need new residents
24. No lodging or B & B

### **Primary Focus Buckets Needs Identified**

#### **Workforce Prep - Total Votes = 3 Votes**

1. Continue opportunity to get dual credit
2. Improve Cooperation among schools
3. Transportation is a barrier to career exploration
4. More automotive, robotic, practical skill and skill development programs **1 Vote**
5. Nontraditional career skill development for women
6. Good College Pre courses
7. Fire, EMS volunteer training **1 Vote**
8. Strong building trades training **1 Vote**

#### **Childcare - Total Votes = 0 Votes**

1. Getting workers
2. Childcare is not affordable
3. There are low wages for childcare workers
4. Lots of staff turnover due to low wages

#### **Housing\* - Total Votes = 10 Votes (See "Magic Wand Ideas" and "What's Missing" above)**

1. Need smaller retirement homes
2. Need to rehab some existing homes **4 Votes**
3. Need good quality rental homes (slum lords, lack of code and out of town landlords)
4. Family residential housing on the North side

\* General Votes on Housing = **2 Votes**

#### **Planning & Vision\* - Total Votes = 12 Votes**

1. Need someone who knows how to develop a plan **1 Vote**
2. Need \$\$\$ Resources **1 Vote**
3. Need Guidance **1 Vote**
4. Need to engage others including volunteers

\* General Votes on Planning & Vision = **9 Votes**