

2021

City of Lake Wales Neighborhood Survey Findings Report

Presented to the
City of Lake Wales,
Florida

April 2021



ETC
INSTITUTE

City of Lake Wales Neighborhood Survey (2021) Comments to Open-Ended Questions



Q10. What type(s) of business would you like to see established in close proximity to your neighborhood?

Q10-5. Other:

- Businesses attracting youth for entertainment and activities.
- Permanent structure or mobile library.
- Drug store.
- Gym.
- Nightclub.
- Job opportunities.
- Schools for education to give people more insight about the town.
- Local businesses.
- Old hotel building and apartment building on 1st and W. Crystal turn into a Veterans Apartment complex and on the bottom floor of the hotel a cafeteria and office for intake.
- Small park.
- Small pop stores.
- Social Services work training center.
- Theater.
- Civic Halls.
- Wash house/store.

City of Lake Wales Neighborhood Survey (2021) Comments to Open-Ended Questions



Individual comments:

- Across from a school and often very quiet.
- Calm environment.
- Cheap rent.
- Convenience of local businesses.
- Everything is good.
- Families here since 1921.
- Friendly and supportive neighbors.
- Friendly neighbors, respectful of others.
- Well maintained homes and yards.
- Good neighbors.
- Good neighbors.
- Having someone to take me to church.
- Historic.
- Homeowners here for over 25 years.
- I am not certain about my neighborhood. Most of the folks that owned homes here are deceased. The younger generation who inherited the property and homes do not care. A lot of areas are unkempt.
- I have lived in my neighborhood since 1955, and I love it. Good street to live on F Street.
- I have lived in this neighborhood as it was being built in the 60's.
- I have some believing Christians in my neighborhood, that is very kind.
- I know most neighbors.
- I like being near just about everything. We never have to drive too far.
- I like my neighbors.
- I love the slow life.
- It is a good neighborhood to live in.
- It is a loving neighborhood; we look out for each other.
- It is not noisy and there are good people.
- It is quiet and safe, and everyone is very respectful to each other.
- It is quiet during the day and the neighbors are nice.
- It is small. Can be close to who you trust.
- It is very quiet, safe environment, close to school, church.
- It is quiet.
- It is quiet.
- It is quiet living in my neighborhood.
- Knowing the people and close proximity to my church.
- Less crime, good neighbors.
- Long time neighbors.
- Many historical buildings.
- Multicultural groups.

City of Lake Wales Neighborhood Survey (2021) Comments to Open-Ended Questions



- Most of the people on my street have been here for years.
- Most people care.
- My church is in the neighborhood.
- My neighbor is clean and quiet.
- My neighborhood is good, and I have no problems.
- My neighbors are awesome when I need anything done, they are there to help.
- Nice neighbors.
- Mostly quiet.
- People attend to their own business, but if a situation arises a helping hand is offered.
- Pretty tranquil.
- Quiet, clean, friendly people, neighborly.
- Safe neighbors.
- Small and kid friendly.
- Quiet neighborhood.
- Some of my neighbors I been knowing for a long time.
- Somewhat quiet.
- Most residents are proud owners and keep an eye out for things out of the ordinary.
- The neighborhood changing; The Center has changed it to transitional housing.
- We all get along.
- We keep to ourselves and mind our own business.

City of Lake Wales Neighborhood Survey (2021) Comments to Open-Ended Questions



Individual comments:

- All crowds gathering and smoking drugs.
- Better lighting on streets; West Orange Avenue.
- Cleaner yards without trash.
- Blatant drug dealing.
- Cannot seem to get cops to regularly patrol area. Tired of calling and calling.
- Cameras.
- Do not allow cars to stop and have music blaring.
- Everything.
- Everything.
- Fix all roads in downtown.
- Fix or tear down long-term vacant businesses and homes.
- Paint markings for lanes of traffic and parking.
- Get rid of drug dealers.
- Have the Code Inspector come in and have the junk cars removed.
- Tear down the old boarded up buildings.
- Clean yards and rental properties.
- Heavy trucks using the street.
- Have HOA requirements.
- Houses that need repair or torn down.
- I would improve the noise and traffic.
- I would like to see more business.
- Stop the loud music and speeding up and down our streets.
- Make sure no one walks around who does not belong.
- More living conditions for people and family.
- More police patrol.
- More stores and wash houses.
- More street lights.
- Motor bikes running up and down the street.
- No renters.
- No renters.
- More police visibility.
- Noise.
- Speeding.
- Police patrol.
- Nothing.
- Nothing.
- Nothing.
- Nothing.
- Nothing.

City of Lake Wales Neighborhood Survey (2021) Comments to Open-Ended Questions



- Nothing.
- Nothing.
- Nothing; everything is in the right place.
- Outsiders buying property and over charging residents to rent.
- People not taking care of their yards.
- Plant more trees.
- Put up used goods that are on the side of the road twice a week.
- Rehab the abandoned property.
- Decrease level of crime.
- Remove some of the transitional residents.
- Some of the cars on the side of the street.
- Speed bumps.
- Speeding.
- Speeding.
- Stop the speeding and the loud noise when cars come through.
- The appearance of the front vegetation.
- The noise at night.
- On-street parking.
- The lack of good streetlights.
- The noise.
- The speeding on my street.
- The upkeep of homes and properties.
- More police presence.
- Officers stopping unlawful gatherings.
- Control noise ordinances with tickets, fines, and or towing of vehicles breaking the noise ordinance.
- Trash is not picked up if spilled by the garbage man.
- Trash on streets.
- Upgrade the playground lights in the alleys.
- We would like to acquire a portion of the undeveloped property at the back of the church. Additionally, we would like to acquire the vacant property next to our home.

City of Lake Wales Neighborhood Survey (2021)

Comments to Open-Ended Questions



Individual comments:

- A lot
- A neighborhood watch program.
- Blatant drug dealing. Soon will have apartments across the street completed... I am expecting more noise, traffic, more speeding, and drug lookouts (walking around) and dealing. Slummy looking rentals need to be addressed.
- Code enforcement of lawns of rental properties.
- Crime.
- Speeding traffic.
- Loud neighbors.
- Fighting.
- Gun shots.
- Loitering.
- Crowds and drug smoking.
- Government grants to homeowners to fix up ugly homes.
- garbage containers set on the curb for a week and other residents put their can in their yard. When I call the Code Inspector, they do not have compliance for it.
- House for low income.
- I do not see anything.
- Just the speeding.
- Lighting on streets.
- Lines need painted in the middle of the street where most cars and trucks travel.
- Loitering on C street.
- Loud music at C Street and Dorsett (301 Dorsett Ave.).
- Loud music.
- Maintenance of rental properties.
- More lights on dark street corners.
- More lights on the street. Install lights in the entrance of Lake Wales Soccer Club. Dangerous during the night.
- More police.
- My neighbor no longer has an HOA.
- Noise control.
- Cars with loud music all time of night.
- Unauthorized large crowds gatherings.
- Drug sales.
- Stores allowing drugs sold on property.
- Lack of police visibility.
- Vacant property clean-up.
- Make property owners responsible for maintaining the upkeep of their property.
- Make property owners responsible for any loitering occurring on their property.

City of Lake Wales Neighborhood Survey (2021) Comments to Open-Ended Questions



- Noise too loud; bad music with profanity.
- Noise.
- Garbage cans left out.
- None.
- None.
- Outside actually. Too many people are throwing trash from truck and cars. Diapers in parking lots not cleaned.
- Parking on road.
- Beautification.
- Getting together socially.
- Police can ride through more often.
- Police patrol.
- Garbage cans out all day.
- Speeding.
- Loud music.
- No change in the city.
- Potholes.
- Potholes.
- Rental house situation.
- Roads.
- Some of the sidewalks.
- Speeding and those running stop signs.
- Speeding on Wiltshire Ave.
- Speeding.
- Street lighting.
- Speeding.
- The noise at night.
- The on-street parking.
- The lack of good streetlights.
- The upkeep of rental property.
- There is no maintenance within the City parks.
- There are no recreation outlets for the children or adults.
- Throwing trash in the roads and in peoples yards.
- Transition housing selling to investors that do not keep up the property.
- Trash.
- Trash being dumped on private property. Property owner paying to clean up dumping.
- Trash on streets.
- Unaware of anything.