

Small Town

We appreciate our close-knit, friendly, small-town vibe and the unique and special places, businesses, and events that contribute to a sense of community identity, pride, and togetherness.

Subthemes

- Faith & family
- Things to do
- Places to meet & interact with each other
- Diversity
- Local tradition
- Historical Landmarks (Baldwin Reynolds, Diamond Park, Market House, the Academy)
- Anchor Institutions (Allegheny College, Meadville Medical Center, Meadville Public Library, Courthouse)
- Tradition-based events (Halloween Parade, Thurston Classic, Bulldog athletics)
- Locally owned, unique businesses (Pizza Villa, Tattered Corners, Eddie's, Hanks)

What's Underway

In the last few years, we've seen...

- the start of MeadvilleCalendar.com, a comprehensive community calendar sharing all of the good things going on in Meadville
- events thrown by community members in order to provide low-cost, family-friendly fun and strengthen our sense of community, like Winterfest, the Pumpkin Derby, Splash Bash, and more
- the successful crowd-sourced startup of Tarot Bean Roasting Co., our local coffee shop and gathering place
- the expansion of the Crawford County Historical Society with the purchase and renovation of the Tarr Mansion
- the start of Thankful Thursdays, a grassroots community clean-up initiative
- the expansion of the Second Saturday Community Markets, a monthly festival of local art, music, and activities in downtown Meadville



Small Town

We appreciate our close-knit, friendly, small-town vibe and the unique and special places, businesses, and events that contribute to a sense of community identity, pride, and togetherness.

Action 1 Establish a Welcome Committee

Overview

While Meadville has much to offer both residents and visitors, many of its areas of interest aren't easy to find without proper information. Additionally, local residents take pride in our small-town feel where everybody seems to know each other. Newcomers have addressed that upon coming to Meadville, they can feel like an outlier and find it difficult to participate in the "small-town vibe". Community members propose establishing a Welcoming Committee which will be responsible for welcoming newcomers to Meadville, its neighborhoods, and areas of local interest. Neighborhood captains will be recruited to keep an eye out for newcomers, including new renters to the surrounding neighborhood. These captains will share welcome packets, which will include general city information, coupons to local shops and gifts, and telephone numbers of importance, and/or places of interest.

Lead Solution Partner

- City of Meadville
- Meadville Neighborhood Center

Supporting Partners

- Shadetree Commission
- Realtors
- Chamber of Commerce

- Big employers (Allegheny College, Crawford County Courthouse, Meadville Medical Center, Department of Environmental Protection)

Action 2 Spotlight community cleanup efforts

Overview

Many groups and citizens, including youth, are taking it upon themselves to maintain a cleaner and more beautiful Meadville. Community members feel recognition of these commitments to the community is important. Residents want to affirm these efforts by highlighting positive examples that showcase our community's commitment to one another. These spotlights could also encourage residents to continue to organize community cleanups.

Lead Solution Partner

- City of Meadville

Existing Resources

- Thankful Thursdays
- French Creek Clean Up

Community Values

- ✓ Local Economy
- ✓ Nature



Small Town

We appreciate our close-knit, friendly, small-town vibe and the unique and special places, businesses, and events that contribute to a sense of community identity, pride, and togetherness.

Action 3 Create Block Party Toolkit

Overview

One recurring sentiment My Meadville has heard from community residents is that neighborhoods used to have a strong sense of identity. Neighbors knew one another and took great pride in their sense of connection and common identity. Residents feel the unique sense of neighborhood identity has been in decline. To foster connection among neighbors, community members have proposed developing a Block Party Toolkit. The Block Party Toolkit will provide a guide for organizing a neighborhood block party. Such a guide will include necessary City permits, suggestions for recruiting volunteers and partners, and a list of free resources like rentable life-size lawn games (see Nature). In providing the tools for residents to host their *own* block party, we hope to see increased connection, strengthened community identity, and inspired new leaders.

Supporting Partners

- City of Meadville

Existing Resources

- Draft of Block Party Toolkit

Community Values

- ✓ Inclusion

