



# Mercer County: Better Together

*Success Through Collaboration. #MCBT*

## **MATHERVILLE/PREEMPTION**

The village of Matherville and unincorporated community of Preemption each contribute to Mercer County's third largest population area, Preemption Township, with a total population of 1,783. Nestled on US Highway 67, Preemption is an agriculturally-driven community located 12 miles southwest of the Quad City Airport and 15 miles south of the metro Quad Cities. Located 1 mile west of US Highway 67, Matherville educates approximately 225 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Sherrard school district at the Matherville Intermediate school, which features a branch of the Sherrard Public Library. The Matherville and Preemption communities offer a variety of worship opportunities, and often join together in community efforts. Each July, Lake Matherville hosts Mercer County's largest fireworks display. Both communities are afforded commerce and economic opportunities through proximity to the metro Quad Cities.

### **Matherville/Preemption Community Heart & Soul Statements**

"We are a safe, quiet, family-friendly community that values the convenience of our post offices, schools, churches, library access and community events like the July 3<sup>rd</sup> fireworks show."

"We appreciate the recreational opportunities the lake brings to our area."

"We appreciate the existing businesses and hope to increase economic development that will create jobs to attract people to the area."

"We envision a community with improved roads, street lights and food pantry availability."

Matherville/Preemption Area Community Representatives categorized each line of survey data on the following questions; then summarized survey responses into most common themes –

#### **1) Why do you live here?**

- Family
- Quiet, country living

#### **2) Why did you move or stay here?**

- Family
- Business opportunities

**3) What do you especially love about your community?**

- Friendly people
- Small town feeling
- Local activities

**5) What do you think matters most to your neighbors?**

- Safety
- Peace & quiet
- Neighbors
- Schools
- Health care/exercise opportunities

**6) Why is your community “home” to you?**

- Family
- Neighbors
- Safety
- Agriculture
- Quiet

**8) What are the most important places in your community? Why?**

- Churches; gathering & community service, love & care for neighbors, meeting places, worship & fellowship
- Parks; keeps kids safe
- Schools; safer area, education/participate in activities
- Post office; convenience
- Sherrard Library; services & activities provided for all ages

**10) What should stay the same in your community?**

- Community events
- Safety/security
- Schools
- Park/ball diamonds
- Small town feel

**11) What should change in your community?**

- Streetlights
- Road improvements
- Move Sherrard Food Pantry to permanent building in Preemption
- Attract more families
- More jobs/economic development