



Mercer County: Better Together

Success Through Collaboration. #MCBT

VIOLA

Mercer County is bisected by two major highways - Illinois Highway 17 and US Highway 67. The Village of Viola is located at the crossing of these two roadways, nicknamed "The Crossroads of Mercer County". Home to 955 residents, Viola is within the Sherrard school district and in the heart of Greene Township, which totals a population of 1,640. Located in the center of Mercer County, Viola features proximity to the metro Quad Cities, Monmouth and Galesburg areas. 283 families enjoy a variety of local churches and parks, as well as the educational amenities of a local library and Winola Elementary School. A variety of locally-owned small businesses and community celebrations, such as the annual Old Threshers Reunion, galvanize this agriculturally-driven community.

Viola Community Heart & Soul Statements

"We are a safe, rural community with a highway crossroads that supports locally-owned businesses and agriculture through interstate access."

"We value our community center, parks, fire station, library, school and grocery store because they provide programs and services that sustain our families and population."

"We will continue to invest in community cleanup efforts, new sidewalks and the development of new downtown buildings to ensure a vibrant and growing future."

"We envision quality housing stock across the price ranges, greater access to health care and increased dining opportunities as ways to meet the needs of current and future residents."

Viola 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 in Mercer County?

- Born/grew up here
- Small town living
- Property here

2) Why did you stay here?

- Small town/rural living
- Quiet atmosphere
- Business/employment here

3) What do you especially love about your community?

- Rural community
- Family/friends
- Safety/security
- Helpful neighbors/good people
- Schools

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

- Safety/security
- Appearance of town
- Good schools
- Programs for elderly
- Local amenities

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

- Born here
- Married spouse from here
- Own business here
- Attended school here
- Family here

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

- Community meeting hall; place to gather for several organizations
- Fire station
- Grocery store; hardworking & generous to community
- Park/ball diamond
- Library; use as resource, continue education
- School; education, after school activities, friends

10) What should stay the same in your community?

- Grocery store/local businesses
- Small town feel
- Schools
- Churches
- Fire station

11) What should change in your community?

- Tear down dilapidated buildings
- More restaurants/dining opportunities
- Low-income & standard housing
- Assisted-living facility
- Health care facilities/resources
- Educational opportunities