

## WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY THINK ABOUT PETUNIAS?

In 2025, the Petunia Parade along Main Street took a “vacation” to allow the resurfacing of M-22 to go smoothly. The new road, along with ADA sidewalk corners and several crosswalks, helps to spruce up our Village and make it safer and user-friendly. During that time, the Petunia Committee took the opportunity to query residents and visiting public on their thoughts about the future of petunias in Onkama.

Online and paper surveys were administered over forty days during the summer. One hundred seventeen (117) people responded. Analysis of data highlighted the following opinions:

- 97% respondents say that petunias have a “huge impact or are noticeable” to an impression of Onkama
- Those who volunteer/volunteered to plant or weed petunias were well represented (about half of the respondents)

Graphically, the response to the question “Upon first thought, what do you think about the idea of petunias in hanging baskets along Main Street in Onkama instead of planting them directly into soil at ground level?” looks like this. See graph below.

Response to other questions points to some good support for “buying” a planter and that around \$150 might be a reasonable cost for a planter. Only one respondent offered to help water the planters (yes, it is a big challenge to overcome).

Now you might ask “so what is the plan for 2026?” The Committee has proposed a transition plan for 2026, and it has been approved by the Portage Lake Association Board and endorsed by the Onkama Village Council. The plan focuses on attributes of familiarity, flexibility, labor saving, adaptability, and buying “local” i.e., in Michigan. Stay tuned for April’s PLA newsletter when the plan is revealed!

