

SAVE YOUR

.town

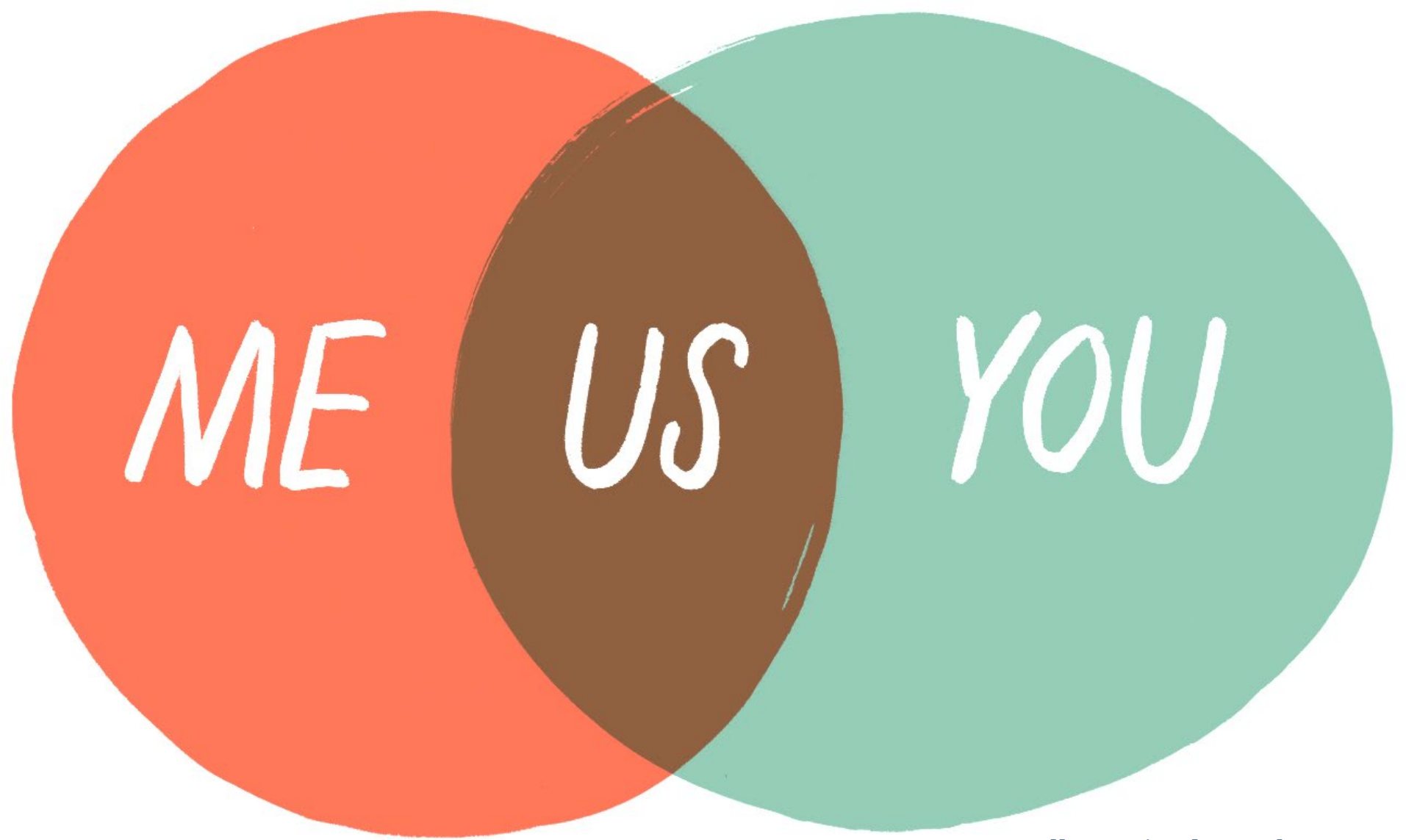


Illustration by Carlos Moreno

Practical Steps for Small-Town Collaborations

Photo by Becky McCray

Bonding vs Bridging



Belonging, community, meaning

BRIDGE OUT
1 MILE AHEAD
LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY

STOP



Survey of Rural
CHALLENGES
2015 through today

Photo by
Becky McCray

How we group ourselves

Color, race, ethnicity, culture	Education, professions, business	Disability	Family makeup
Age	Income, class	Gender, LGBTQIA+	Seasonal residents
Military service	Newcomers	Politics	Religion

People have to connect as people



Write it down...

Add fellowship time to a gathering:

In your organization

In the community

Experiences shape our behaviors



SAVEYOUR.town

Photo by Becky McCray

Get out of the meeting room



Get off Facebook

I think Alva needs a dog park!



[REDACTED]

I disagree first time i ever took a dog to a dog park he came home with fleas kennel cough and a bacterial infection in his intestines. They're not always sanitary. Never took a dog to one of those parks again. Plus that whole animal aggression thing with other peoples dogs. Just weighing out the pros and cons

Like Reply Share



[REDACTED]

Who's going to fund the dog park, mow the dog park, spray for weeds, maintain the fences and the play equipment. Who's going to buy all of the fencing and pay to have it installed?

Who's going to pay the liability insurance, because it will be high!!!

Is it free? Do you need to pay to use it?

I always have too many questions.

Like Reply Share



Activities outrun negativity



Write it down...

**What conversation can we move
from the meeting room to on-site?
From online to the real world?**

Let's talk...

**What is one specific conflict
you want help with?**

Bridge people to causes

SAVEYOUR.town



Write it down...

What existing project could serve as a bridge between groups in our community?

What are the issues that are so big that only this group can address them?

SAVEYOUR.town



*Photo via Estill
County Development*

Who else cares about this or might be interested?

- Housing - Who needs to be on the bus?
- Foothills
- Cities/County - Building Inspector
- Housing Authority
- Flippers/Rehabbers
- Contractors
- Real Estate Pros
- Bankers/Appraisers/Inspectors/Lawyers ^{Surveyors}
- Large Employers
- School District (ATC)

- Utilities <sup>KY Hardy Windstream
Jax ECwater Inr Cadle
IMU Columbia</sup>
- Kenny Cole
- Hardware Stores
- Habitat for Humanity
- BGADD

Photo by Becky McCray

Connections will emerge

PROJECT 1

^{Area}
Tech Ctr + city houses
+ Insurance + Habitat
+ other non-profits
+ contractors
+ college (landscape, interior)

(Carhartt house? - Ashley)
(Promise Neighborhood - USDA - Treva) HUD - Home renovation
(Downtown 2nd/3rd Floors)

= Rehab Houses

PROJECT 2

Testing Ground for
Innovative Housing

Eco-pods
Containers

- Mountain Association

Photo by Becky McCray

Write it down...

What are the issues that are so big that only this group can address them?

Who else cares about this or might be interested?

Ideas Party



Photo by Deb Brown

More people will join than start

First Flag: 'Scooping the Loop'

By Julie Ann Madden

The first idea from Akron Mayor Sharon Frerichs' Plant Your Flag Party came to fruition Saturday night.

"Scoop the Loop was a roaring success," Frerichs told The Akron Homeowner about Saturday night's event from 8 to 10 p.m. on Reed Street. "It was so much fun."

Cars cruised the loop from Second Street to Fourth Street, including the mayor and her husband, Bob.

"It was just like the Roaring Sixties," said Frerichs, explaining there were fun things to do as the Coordinators Jennie Roed and Hollie St. Pierre held up signs encouraging cruisers to Roll Down Your Windows, Turn Up Your Music, and Do Chinese Fire Drills.

"One gal was all excited because she picked up a guy to ride in her car with her," said Frerichs, "and people would pull up



photos courtesy of Rodney Anderson, Akron Chamber president
Just like when they were much younger, Susan Brown and her husband, Bob, and friends, Bob Nielsen and his wife, Linda, (not shown) do a Chinese Fire Drill during Akron's Scoop The Loop this past Saturday night.



Mary and Joe Swain, of Akron, cruised as they did 'yesterday' -- all decked out in antique truck, costumes and Christmas lights.



On Oct. 23, Akron Mayor Sharon Frerichs hosted a "Plant Your Flag" Party, inviting Akron citizens to bring their ideas, or "flags," to make Akron an even greater place to live. (L-r.) Councilman Alex Pick was one of 25 people, including Akron City Hall Office Assistant Kourtney Nicholson and Mayor Sharon Frerichs, with ideas.

up and how much excitement there was with it," said St. Pierre. "It was a wide variety of people, cool cars, a lot of fun."

She estimated they gave out about 80 coupons to individuals who cruised in the approximately 20 to 30 cars. Participants ranged in age from 7 to 70s.

"It was good, wholesome fun for people to come out and have a good time," said St. Pierre, who wore

tator," said Akron Police Chief Bill Young, who was amazed at the number of people participating. "As long as people are driving safely, I see no problem with it."

"We encourage youth to come down and cruise the loop," said Roed. "No one will be pulled over if you are driving responsible."

"Stay tuned for the next announcement for our next event," she added.

Park Projects:
Develop Akron's boat ramp area; install more camping pads at city park; improve the Ron Wilmot Walking Trail; utilize the city park's tennis courts for volleyball tournaments; and host Movies in the Park and hold Garden Tea "Horticulture" Party fundraisers.

Business Growth:
"For Sale" signs placed on Akron Business Park lots; regional advertising

Write it down...

**How can we encourage more
people to act on their ideas?**

It's not all up to the city

SAVEYOUR.town

Webster City, Iowa. Photo by Deb Brown

SAVEYOUR.town



Photo CC by Baker County Tourism

Write it down...

How could more people play a small but meaningful role in this project?

Let's talk...

**What is one specific way you can
help each other today?**



*Photo by
Becky McCray*





Photo by Becky McCray

Coffee & Calendars

Ask folks to go for coffee and bring their calendars.

Drink coffee and go over your calendars.

Repeat monthly or quarterly.

SAVE YOUR

.town

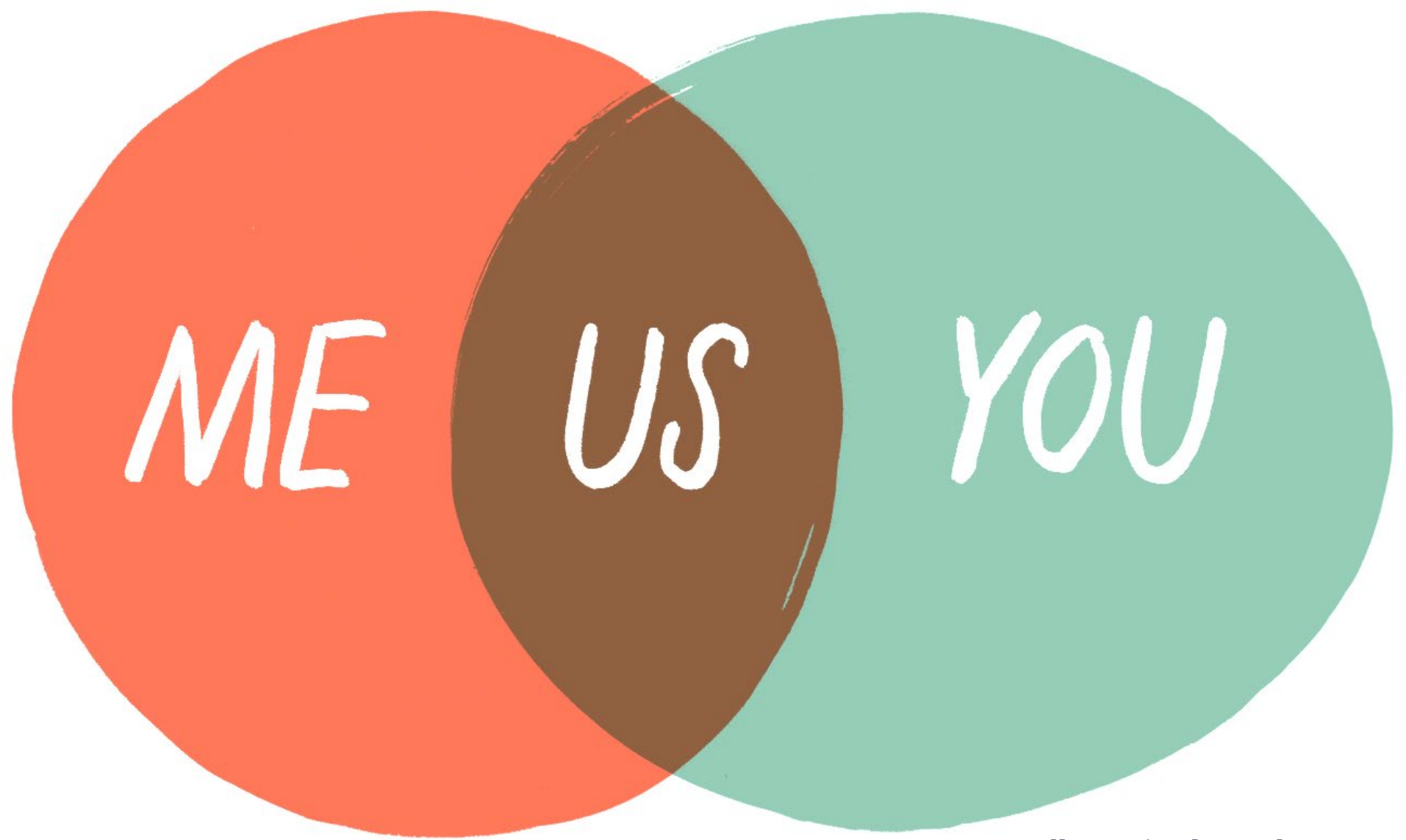


Illustration by Carlos Moreno

Practical Steps for Small-Town Collaborations

Becky McCray

becky@saveyour.town

580-430-6173

First 10 Steps PDF

Free, no email required

<https://SaveYour.Town/First10Steps>

