VILLAGE OF BELLAIRE
Community Survey Results
May 2007

Survey Key: **[1]** Very Satisfied **[2]** Satisfied **[3]** Neutral **[4]** Unsatisfied **[5]** Very Unsatisfied **[6]** Unknown

IN GENERAL, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH LIVING IN BELLAIRE?

1[32%] 2 [45%] 3 [15%] 4 [6%] 5 [1%] 6[1%]

A. Village taxes too high
B. Need clear Direction "What is Bellaire?"

IN GENERAL, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH SHOPPING IN BELLAIRE?

1[7%] 2 [26%] 3 [28%] 4 [29%] 5 [10%] 6[ ]

IN GENERAL HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH DINING IN BELLAIRE?

1[16%] 2 [46%] 3 [23%] 4 [12%] 5 [3%] 6[ ]

IN GENERAL, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE BELLAIRE SERVICES?

1[20%] 2 [23%] 3 [39%] 4 [10 %] 5 [7%] 6[1%]

► I am sick and tired of my taxes going up every year – Give taxpayers a break…

IN GENERAL, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE VILLAGE COUNCIL DECISIONS?

1[3%] 2 [32%] 3 [38%] 4 [12%] 5 [11%] 6[4%]

► Hiring family members is in poor taste and not professional
► I think the Village council is still ANTI-Business
► I no longer attempt to attend council meetings. The Council does whatever it wants regardless of input

IN GENERAL, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE IN BELLAIRE?

1[28%] 2 [51%] 3 [14%] 4 [6%] 5 [1%] 6[ ]

► Money doesn't grow on trees – lousy local wages, low paying resort – Shanty Creek

IN GENERAL, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE RECENT ROAD IMPROVEMENTS?

1[9%] 2 [40%] 3 [26%] 4 [8%] 5 [6%] 6[11%]

► What improvements? 2 At what cost?
► Where? 2 What improvements, I haven't seen much
► What improvements? Need lots of work
► Some areas still need to be improved – standing water, large potholes

VILLAGE SERVICES

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1[33%] 2 [51%] 3 [10%] 4 [4%] 5 [1%] 6[1%]

► Over staffed, 2 officers would be plenty especially with us being the home base of the County cops.
► Too many

MUNICIPAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT (PUBLIC WORKS)

1[22%] 2 [44%] 3 [19%] 4 [12%] 5 [2%] 6[1%]

► Some employees are nicer than others

SNOW PLOWING

1[34%] 2 [43%] 3 [15%] 4 [3%] 5 [5%] 6[ ]

► Joke!
► Plows need to schedule better hours – not plow at wee hours of the morning – too noisy
► Better this year than in previous years

PARKS DEPARTMENT

1[21%] 2 [44%] 3 [22%] 4 [8%] 5 [4%] 6[1%]

► Would like to see more done
► What Parks?
► Bathrooms at Park at gross
► Needs to be updated

WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT

1[23%] 2 [50%] 3 [15%] 4 [8%] 5 [3%] 6[1%]

►This response (5) is indicative of the still unfinished water main project in S. Genesee St. that has been going on for 2 ½ years
►Too expensive
►Could use a break on sewer for lawn upkeep
►Prices keep going up – too expensive to live in the Village – please watch prices
►Too high
►What do other municipals charge

STREET SWEEPING

1[19%] 2 [46%] 3 [22%] 4 [9%] 5 [3%] 6[1%]

► The Spring sweep needs to be done earlier before rain washes the sand into the river
► Doesn't really affect me
► More frequent after downtown events

SIDEWALK PLOWING

1[22%] 2 [49%] 3 [18%] 4 [4%] 5 [3%] 6[4%]

► Taxpayers driveways blocked in every morning "More work" for taxpayers to shovel out our driveways
► Would love to see the walking path plowed for winter walks because the road is too dangerous
► Not enough walk openings around store downtown
► I snow blow my driveway and after I'm done the village plow puts snow back in my driveway and I don't like that

RECREATION & EVENTS

►Upscale, younger-crowd attractions like Shorts Brewery/Stonewater Inn is excellent for this area.

MUSIC DOWNTOWN

1[26%] 2 [40%] 3 [24%] 4 [4%] 5 [2 %] 6[4%]

►If it is the Chamber sponsored, it needs to be downtown
►Awful noise "too loud" – Dreadful music!
►Needs to be in the park
►Needs to be on Broad Street
►Add something other than country and smoothing for kids to do
►Should be in the park with shade and needs more advertising such as a big banner for it

MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL

1[14%] 2 [24%] 3 [35%] 4 [5%] 5 [5%] 6[17%]

► Very important!
►Doesn't really affect me
►Cancel
►Way to late – 5:00 PM –7:00 PM
►Not at downtown park (Richardi) too many residences around the park
►As long as not at Richardi

FARMERS MARKET

1[40%] 2 [51%] 3 [3%] 4 [3%] 5 [%] 6[5%]

►More of an open, more visible would be better
►Great selection, but over priced
►Working on it
►Should stay open longer than noon on Saturdays and possibly run more days in the summer.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

1[29%] 2 [44%] 3 [18%] 4 [3%] 5 [ ] 6[6%]

COMPOSTING/BRUSH PILE

1[51%] 2 [30%] 3 [13%] 4 [3%] 5 [%] 6[3%]

►What is this? Where?
►What?

WALKING PATH

1[53%] 2 [30%] 3 [10%] 4 [4%] 5 [ ] 6[3%]

►Needs to be lengthen, longer!
►Needs lighting
►Love what we have, would love more
►Too much dog mess
►Continue the expansion
►More paths?

LOCAL PARKS

1[35%] 2 [39%] 3 [15%] 4 [7 %] 5 [%] 6[4%]

►Dogs allowed in park (Richardi) no leashes, owners not picking up feces. We have watched dogs on leashes with owner do their thing and small children come along barefooted and play in the same area. Very Disturbing

►Signs posted in the Park: Clean up after yourselves – kids always leave trash
►Need more landscaping along M-88/Richardi Park area. It should be an attraction for Village – an invitation to visit and linger. What is attraction? Cement, fences, poles, etc

►AYSO fields need water
►What parks? Richardi?
►Bathrooms are gross
►Should be picked up more too many bottles, and paper cups laying around
►Would love to see additional playground equipment in Holiday Acres subdivision for all the kids. Would love to see the above area beautified with landscaping and gardens, maybe a basketball hoop area. It is too important to us in the sub to have the walkway in the woods fixed; it is very dangerous right now to walk across middle section.

►Richardi Park needs to be updated – replace toilet facilities, resurface courts, improve seating area

WEB SITE

DID YOU KNOW THE VILLAGE HAS A WEBSITE?

YES [53%] NO [47%]

DO YOU OWN A COMPUTER?

YES [85%] NO [15%]

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET?

YES [81%] NO [19%]

HOW DO YOU ACCESS THE INTERNET?

Cable [32%] DSL [9%] Phone [34%] Wireless [7%] None [18%]

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE VILLAGE'S WEBSITE?

Daily [1%] Weekly [9%] Monthly [21%] Never [86%]

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY VILLAGE BOARDS OR COMMITTEES?

YES [79%] NO [21%]

DO YOU ATTEND VILLAGE MEETINGS?

YES [21%] NO [79%]

DID YOU VOTE IN THE LAST ELECTION?

YES [84%] NO [16%]

DO YOU PLAN TO VOTE IN THE NEXT ELECTION?

YES [77%] NO [23%]

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN A VILLAGE BOARD OR COMMITTEE?

YES [23%] NO [77%]

►Want to have input

►How?

►Would love to see a schedule of meetings including info n committee and when they meet

IF THE VILLAGE CREATED A RECYCLING DROP OFF SITE, WOULD YOU USE IT?

YES [84%] NO [16%]

►Absolutely 2

DO YOU LIVE IN THE VILLAGE?

YES [79%] NO [21%]

DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS IN THE VILLAGE?

YES [29%] NO [71%]

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE LEAF PICK UP AS A PAID SERVICE?

YES [41%] NO [59%]

►Without raising taxes

►Maybe – cost is a factor

►Not sure

DO YOU OWN RENTAL PROPERTY IN BELLAIRE?

YES [13%] NO [87%]

COMMUNICATION

These %'s are based on the responses to the specific communication, not on a 1-6 rating

VILLAGE WEBSITE	10%
ANTRIM COUNTY NEWS	27%
ANTRIM REVIEW	38%
VILLAGE NEWSLETTER	3%
WORD OF MOUTH	22%
OTHER	1%

►Never got a Village newsletter
►No centralized community event calendar
►Would like to see: website (content is stale) newsletter – monthly newspaper
►Newsletter after the fact – send out more often
►Do flyers
►Word of mouth can be very wrong
►Village meetings, talking to officials @ that coffee house, streets @ times is helpful

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Listed are the top six responses

More retail business	26%
Beautify the Town	18%
River walk with Businesses	16%
Expand Walking Trail	13%
Sidewalk Improvements	13%
Downtown Parking	14%

FUTURE PRIORITIES GENERAL COMMENTS:

A. Thank you for doing this survey a great idea
B. Survey is a good idea
C. What a great idea to ask us what we think –Thank you
D. Thanks for the opportunity
E. Well worth the time
F. Master plan very confusing, no prioritization of projects, info on $$ from 2001, etc
G. I would strongly suggest that Bellaire move toward following a historical theme to take advantage of our rich heritage rather than following the same road every other town is going – Be different, not the same as others. Our history can lead us to the future.
H. The Auto Parts Store needs to move to the outside of town
I. The Village of Bellaire came together and donated money for a new clock/thermometer, and yet, it only works 50% of the time. I think this matter should be addressed.
J. Expand thoughts and growth outside of 2 block area
K. Take advantage of historic area
L. Reduce Taxes
M. Lower taxes- sky rocked 13% in one year
N. Provide recycling
O. Sidewalks on both sides of the street
P. Provide trash receptacles year round – litter is an eyesore all year
Q. Employers should provide parking behind their stores, and insist that their employees park there
R. Eliminate the 2 hour parking limit, you are driving people away and any tourists who get a ticket while having lunch or breakfast and then shopping will always remember Bellaire and warn other not to come
S. Beautify Downtown with flower pots
T. Need better wheel chair access to park
U. More cutout accessibility at the post office
V. Straighten road by Fischer Insurance it is a safety problem
W. Better light at Cayuga and Main Street, perhaps a stop light
X. Recycle
Y. Soccer Park restrooms and concession building
Z. Opportunity to use different phone services other than Verizon, don't life that it is the only one we can use in this town!!
AA. We are for any village improvements as long as it doesn't raise out village tax
BB. Extend downtown streetscape, down Cayuga to Derenzy Road
CC. Improve Welcome to Bellaire sign
DD. Better street maintenance
EE. Isn't is required that Clerk/Council Executive/Zoning Administrator be a resident of the Village
FF. Pave Bud Lewis walk
GG. Sidewalk on Broad Street – safety factor
HH. Village swimming area
II. River view, so few people know that river flows right through town
JJ. Travelers center/nature/history-photo's information/historic center
KK. Tax reduction
LL. Stop feeding the schools and teacher more money
MM. Would like to see building front (new construction/remodeling) blend with Victorian style architecture both in design and color

NN. No changes needed! It will destroy the quality lost to Traverse City
OO. Free standing clock like in Central Lake, Elk Rapids, Mancelona
PP. Partner with Shanty for bigger event
QQ. Remember NORBA??? Bike stunts
RR. Dredge the upper chain
SS. Dredge lower river
TT. Remove seaweed from river
UU. Public restroom downtown – not in the park
VV. Buried power lines
WW. Improved signage for current parking and restroom in village offices
XX. Reorganize business zoning
YY. Single trash collection company to be paid for by our tax dollars
ZZ. Village wide trash pickup included in tax amount
AAA. Sidewalk along Bellaire Highway to Soccer Fields

BUSINESSES PEOPLE WOULD LIKE TO SEE
*** Indicates it was mentioned numerous times, not just once or twice**

Simple winter restaurant like Ruthie's without ice cream
5 and 10 store
None – Most people like Bellaire the way it is
*Gift shops
*Chain Pharmacy Stores
Light industry
Professional office
Banking
Environmental – no stink or smog
Better car mechanics
*Plain affordable clothing store
*Reasonably priced grocery store
Place for kids to have fun-
Family dining after 8:00 PM
*Alden type of shopping
Get some class – the new storefront/ auto store sucks
Toonies new renovations deserve applause
Dry cleaner
*Bakery
*Medical
Small engine repair
*All the fast food chains
No fast food restaurants
*Recycle center
*Retail stores – corporate for jobs
*Antique, gift stores
2nd hand store
General Country Store
*Fine dining
*Capitalize on the artisans and craftsman in the area and *Carve a unique business climate
Bike shop
*Shoe store

Movies for adults
Better stores on all levels –too limited
Less auto parts stores
*Antique mall
Good Cigar store – high end fresh cigar
Lumber year
Help business in Bellaire to continue
*Dollar Store
White collar research
Low impact industry
*Fudge and cheese shop – summer only
*Crafts knitting
Short order restaurant
Reception hall
Sports merchandise
Whole foods market
More industry (not that it will come. Try not to raise taxes – taxes have gone up for what? Other states have more and better parks and garbage and water inc. in their taxes, what do we have?
*More drive thru restaurants
*Retail Business to attract tourist shopping
Indoor youth center
ALDI grocery store
Any that pays more than minimum wage
Any good paying jobs that don't want to close or move somewhere else
Eastern European restaurant
Expanded "Ruthies"
Retail such as restaurants/cafes
*Artisan craft business
Health Food Store
More auto parts and service business out of primary downtown blocks
Get downtown to be a fun shopping destination
Alternative Energy
*Book store
Curio store
Specialty Retail