

Findings from 2006 Survey of Haymarket Town Residents

PART I, LIVING IN TOWN IN GENERAL

I.1 HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED HERE

- **84% have lived here 10 years or less (11% 1 or less, 54% 5 or less)**
- **16% have lived here more than 10 years**

I.2 TOP REASONS FOR MOVING TO HAYMARKET

- **Small town atmosphere**
- **Reasonable home prices**
- **Quiet, rural area**

I.3 DO YOU ATTEND TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

- **33% said yes / sometimes and 67% said no**
- **Most cited family or work conflicts as reason not able to attend**
- **Some said they wanted to see an agenda**
- **A few said it would be a waste of time**

I.4 HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO SERVE ON A BOARD

- **16% said yes and 84% said no**
- **Most cited lack of time as reason unable to serve**

I.5 DO YOU KNOW HOW BOARD POSITIONS ARE FILLED

- **48% said yes and 52% said no**

I.6 DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON WITHIN THE TOWN

- **60% said yes and 40% said no**
- **Source of information is town newsletter and local newspapers**
- **Publish an agenda ahead of time and meeting minutes afterwards**

I.7 WHAT IS PRIMARY ISSUE FACING THE TOWN

- **Growth, over-development**
- **Traffic**
- **Over-crowding (people, houses, land)**
- **Losing small town charm**

I.8 HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO WALKING WITHIN THE TOWN

- **15% daily, 21% weekly, 22% monthly, 42% never**
- **Walking is difficult or unsafe due to construction**
- **Need sidewalks throughout the town**
- **There isn't much to see or visit**

I.9 WHAT TYPE OF HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WOULD YOU SUPPORT

- **3% for apartments, 8% for condo's, 11% for townhouses, 29% for small lot singles, and 49% for large lot singles**
- **No more houses**
- **Only large lot singles (R1), otherwise too many people and cars**

I.10 OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS DO YOU THINK THE TOWN GOVERNMENT HAS

- **become better 39%**
- **stayed the same 35%**
- **become worse 25%**
- **good that the town is working to bring in more business, handle growth issues, continues to move forward**
- **some feel the town doesn't act in the best interests of its citizens, question town council members' motives, think it takes too long to make decisions, suggest there needs to be more organization**

I.11 OVERALL HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE WAY HAYMARKET IS MANAGED

- **3% excellent, 58% good, 26% fair, 14% poor**
- **Town is managed excellent – Town Center is managed poorly**
- **Police Department problems are an issue**

I.12 GARBAGE COLLECTION

- **93% very satisfied or satisfied and 7% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied**
- **A few mentioned inconsistent pick-up times as an issue**

I.13 RECYCLING PROGRAM

- **92% satisfied and 8% not satisfied**
- **Some asked for more information, containers, wider use of program**

I.14 TRAFFIC CONTROL

- **51% satisfied and 48% not satisfied**
- **Traffic light big improvement, but need turn lanes**
- **Current roads do not support growth and it's way too congested for a small town**
- **people ignore speed limit and fly through town, putting pedestrians in jeopardy**
- **need clearer speed signs and better enforcement**

I.15 ROAD SURFACE MAINTENANCE

- **70% satisfied and 29% not satisfied**
- **Old Carolina Road / Jefferson Street is a mess**
- **Repair brick crosswalks, sidewalks and potholes**
- **Developers should be required to provide safe passage through construction**

I.16 AVAILABILITY AND LOCATION OF PARKS

- **40% satisfied and 60% not satisfied**
- **Some said county parks sufficient**
- **Long Park too crowded and too far away**
- **Need somewhere for children to play**
- **Many blamed developers for loss of Town's green space**

I.17 YOUTH SPORTS ACTIVITIES

- **62% satisfied and 38% not satisfied**
- **Some wondered if this was the town's role and pointed to school and county services as sufficient**
- **Others see need for team sports, recreation center in Haymarket**

I.18 ADULT SPORTS ACTIVITIES

- **48% satisfied and 52% not satisfied**
- **Most said not involved in sports and/or have no time for sports activities**

- **Many asked for trails for jogging, biking and walking**

I.19 TOWN SPECIAL EVENTS

- **80% satisfied and 20% not satisfied**
- **Majority pleaded for Haymarket Day to be returned to Haymarket**
- **Some believe Town of Haymarket is allowing its identity to be swallowed up by the gated communities**
- **A few asked for more activities**

I.20 POLICE PROTECTION IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- **83% satisfied and 17% not satisfied**
- **Concern over bad publicity / issues with police department**
- **Many complimented job being done by police chief and officers**
- **New developments have resulted in increased vandalism, trespassing and break-ins**

I.21 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR HAYMARKET

- **77% satisfied and 23% not satisfied**
- **Town has potential if we could finish construction and get rid of condemned buildings**
- **Need to get rid of Town Center property – Town does not need to be a property manager – vision of this site never realized**

I.22 REAL ESTATE TAX RATE

- **55% satisfied and 46% not satisfied**
- **Percent is too high for services rendered**
- **Taxes have tripled since I moved here seven years ago and I've not seen any increase in services – where does the money go**
- **Could be lower in light of all the growth and new revenue streams – spread the burden better for residential owners**

I.23 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE

- **67% satisfied and 33% not satisfied**
- **Not sure why I need to pay town and county taxes**
- **Being double taxed does not seem fair to residents**

I.24 IS MOST IMPORTANT ROAD IMPROVEMENT

- **Widen or improve (turn lanes) Route 55**
- **Put in sidewalks from Sheetz to Tyler, Piedmont to Somerset**
- **Widen / pave Old Carolina Road**

I.25 SHOULD THE ENTIRE TOWN BE INCLUDED IN THE HISTORIC OVERLAY

- **55% yes , 45% no**
- **Many do not understand what this is**
- **Support measures to protect St Paul's Church, museum, Red Rooster, old firehouse, Winterham and older historic buildings**
- **Some said just the downtown area**
- **Historic atmosphere of the Town has been destroyed by development**

I.26 WHAT PUBLIC SERVICE NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED

- **Police department**
- **Parks and playgrounds**
- **Better post office**
- **Bus service to Gainesville, Manassas, Metro, MARC**

I.27 WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE NEEDED

- **Less growth / development**
- **Less traffic through Haymarket**
- **Get back the small town feel**

I.28 OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE IN HAYMARKET

- **92% satisfied and 8% not satisfied**
- **Traffic and growth have detracted from quality of life in last year**
- **Need restaurants and sidewalks throughout the Town**

I.29 ANNEXATION

- **32% in favor and 68% opposed to annexation**
- **Most see no benefit to becoming part of the town**

- **don't want to be double-taxed on real estate**

PART II, PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

II.1 DO YOU PATRONIZE BUSINESSES IN TOWN

- **88% yes and 12% no**
- **Tops are Food Lion, Sheetz, Fosters, Papa John's and dry cleaners**
- **Nearby Gainesville has everything we need**

II.2 DAY CARE PROVIDER

- **10% use one in Haymarket and 90% do not**
- **Children are too old**
- **Use School After-Care Program (SAC)**

II.3 DO SHOPS IN HAYMARKET SERVE YOUR NEEDS

- **11% said yes and 89% no**
- **Would like coffee shop, drug store, nice restaurants**
- **No town provides services for all your needs**

II.4 WHAT ADDITIONAL SERVICES DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN TOWN

- **Nice, sit-down restaurants**
- **Small drug store with pharmacy**
- **None**

II.5 WHERE DO YOU BUY YOUR GROCERIES

- **Less than 25% of residents buy their groceries in Haymarket**
- **50% of residents buy their groceries in Gainesville**
- **25% buy their groceries in other areas**
- **Many shop at food warehouses**
- **Several complained about quality at Food Lion**

II.6 WHERE DO YOU GO FOR RECREATION

- **area historic attractions**
- **area outdoor activities**

- **DC, Manassas, Fairfax**

II.7 DO YOU THINK THERE IS A NEED FOR RECREATION IN TOWN

- **73% yes**
- **27% no**

II.8 WHAT KIND OF RECREATION NEEDED IN TOWN

- **Children need someplace to have fun and learn**
- **Need picnic area and area for youth**

II.9 WHAT TYPES OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS NEEDED IN TOWN

- **corporate retail 20%**
- **independent retail 41%**
- **office space 11%**
- **professional services 21%**
- **other 8%**
- **majority want good restaurants**
- **local, independent shops that fit in existing / under construction buildings**
- **many said no more businesses of any kind**

II.10 DO YOU FEEL YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS

- **very safe 34%**
- **reasonably safe 60%**
- **not safe 5%**
- **no opinion 2%**
- **Haymarket police do a good job patrolling during the day**
- **Need to stay ahead of the gangs**

II.11 DO YOU FEEL FIRE SERVICE IS

- **79% said good and 20% said not good**
- **Need to expand service in Haymarket area**

II.12 DO YOU FEEL THE TOWN POLICE SERVICE IS

- **very good 38%**
- **reasonably good 41%**

- **not good 16%**
- **no opinion 6%**
- **needs to be expanded**
- **needs work in the ethics department**
- **need a higher caliber of officer**

II.13 WHAT LIBRARY DO YOU USE

- **Gainesville Mini-Library 26%**
- **Bull Run Regional Library 46%**

II.14 IF ELIGIBLE DID YOU VOTE IN THE LAST ELECTION

- **50% yes, 50% no**
- **Couldn't get out of work**
- **Why bother**
- **Just moved here**