

Medical Costs: Sorted by Gender**Percentages of Respondents**

	Female	Male	No Response	Total
Very concerned	9.7%	12.7%	19.5%	11.2%
Concerned	12.2	9.4	7.3	11.0
Somewhat concerned	15.4	17.6	2.4	15.7
Not concerned	43.9	48.3	9.8	44.4
No response	18.8	12.0	61.0	17.7
Total	59.8%	36.8	3.4	100.0%

Medical Costs: Sorted by Age**Numbers of Respondents**

	60 – 64	65 – 74	75 – 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
Very concerned	27	50	40	12	7	136
Concerned	28	55	36	12	3	134
Somewhat concerned	41	63	77	10	1	192
Not concerned	127	218	140	55	1	541
No response	30	73	71	23	19	216
Total	253	459	364	112	31	1,219

Percentages of Respondents

	60 – 64	65 – 74	75 – 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
Very concerned	10.7%	10.9%	11.0%	10.7%	22.6%	11.2%
Concerned	11.1	12.0	9.9	10.7	9.7	11.0
Somewhat concerned	16.2	13.7	21.1	8.9	3.2	15.7
Not concerned	50.2	47.5	38.5	49.1	3.2	44.4
No response	11.8	15.9	19.5	20.6	61.3	17.7
Total	20.8%	37.6	29.9	9.2	2.5	100.0%

Food and Clothing: Sorted by Gender**Numbers of Respondents**

	Female	Male	No Response	Total
Very concerned	15	9	3	27
Concerned	23	12	2	37
Somewhat concerned	43	33	2	78
Not concerned	424	302	6	732
No response	224	93	28	345
Total	729	449	41	1,219

Percentages of Respondents

	Female	Male	No Response	Total
Very concerned	2.0%	2.0%	7.3%	2.2%
Concerned	3.2	2.7	4.9	3.1
Somewhat concerned	5.9	7.3	4.9	6.4
Not concerned	58.2	67.3	14.6	60.0
No response	30.7	20.7	68.3	28.3
Total	59.8%	36.8	4.4	100.0%

Food and Clothing: Sorted by Age**Numbers of Respondents**

	60 - 64	65 - 74	75 - 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
Very concerned	5	11	7	2	2	27
Concerned	12	12	10	2	1	37
Somewhat concerned	22	33	18	5	0	78
Not concerned	176	291	198	64	3	732
No response	38	112	131	39	25	345
Total	253	459	364	112	31	1,219

Food and Clothing: Sorted by Age**Percentages of Respondents**

	60 – 64	65 – 74	75 – 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
Very concerned	2.0%	2.4%	1.9%	1.8%	6.5%	2.2%
Concerned	4.7	2.6	2.7	1.8	3.2	3.1
Somewhat concerned	8.7	7.2	4.9	4.5	0.0	6.4
Not concerned	69.6	63.4	54.4	57.1	9.7	60.0
No response	15.0	24.4	36.1	34.8	80.6	28.3
Total	20.8%	37.6	29.9	9.2	2.5	100.0%

Home Heating: Sorted by Gender**Numbers of Respondents**

	Female	Male	No Response	Total
Very concerned	58	46	5	109
Concerned	61	35	3	99
Somewhat concerned	97	63	1	161
Not concerned	354	253	4	611
No response	159	52	28	239
Total	729	449	41	1,219

Percentages of Respondents

	Female	Male	No Response	Total
Very concerned	7.9%	10.2%	12.2%	8.9%
Concerned	8.4	7.8	7.3	8.1
Somewhat concerned	13.3	14.0	2.4	13.2
Not concerned	48.6	56.3	9.8	50.1
No response	21.8	11.7	68.3	19.7
Total	59.8%	36.8	3.4	100.0%

Home Heating: Sorted by Age**Numbers of Respondents**

	60 – 64	65 – 74	75 – 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
Very concerned	16	46	35	5	7	109
Concerned	19	31	39	7	3	99
Somewhat concerned	40	51	63	7	0	161
Not concerned	149	258	145	57	2	611
No response	29	73	82	36	19	239
Total	253	459	364	112	31	1,219

Percentages of Respondents

	60 – 64	65 – 74	75 – 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
Very concerned	6.3%	10.0%	9.6%	4.4%	22.6%	8.9%
Concerned	7.5	6.8	10.7	6.3	9.7	8.1
Somewhat concerned	15.8	11.1	17.3	6.3	0.0	13.2
Not concerned	58.9	56.2	39.8	50.9	6.4	50.1
No response	11.5	15.9	22.6	32.1	61.3	19.7
Total	20.8%	37.6	29.9	9.2	2.5	100.0%

Emergencies: Sorted by Gender**Numbers of Respondents**

	Female	Male	No Response	Total
Very concerned	57	28	3	88
Concerned	68	39	0	107
Somewhat concerned	132	88	3	223
Not concerned	300	219	5	524
No response	172	75	30	277
Total	729	449	41	1,219

Emergencies: Sorted by Gender**Percentages of Respondents**

	Female	Male	No Response	Total
Very concerned	7.8%	6.2%	7.3%	7.2%
Concerned	9.3	8.7	0.0	8.8
Somewhat concerned	18.1	19.6	7.3	18.3
Not concerned	41.2	48.8	12.2	43.0
No response	23.6	16.7	73.2	22.7
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Total	59.8%	36.8	3.4	100.0%

Emergencies: Sorted by Age**Numbers of Respondents**

	60 – 64	65 – 74	75 – 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
Very concerned	22	32	23	7	4	88
Concerned	26	38	34	8	1	107
Somewhat concerned	46	69	81	26	1	223
Not concerned	126	226	128	43	1	524
No response	33	94	98	28	24	277
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Total	253	459	364	112	31	1,219

Percentages of Respondents

	60 – 64	65 – 74	75 – 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
Very concerned	8.7%	7.0%	6.3%	6.3%	12.9%	7.2%
Concerned	10.3	8.3	9.3	7.1	3.2	8.8
Somewhat concerned	18.2	15.0	22.3	23.2	3.2	18.3
Not concerned	49.8	49.2	35.2	38.4	3.2	43.0
No response	13.0	20.5	26.9	25.0	77.5	22.7
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Total	20.8%	37.6	29.9	9.2	2.5	100.0%

Responses to Question 22: Concerns about Being Able to Pay Bills

Not concerned about any items listed: 406 (33.3%)

Concerned about only one issue: 71 (5.8%)

Very concerned about all the items listed: 14 (1.1%)

No response to any of the items listed: 75 (6.2%)

Answers to Question 26: Education: Sorted by Gender**Number of Respondents**

	Female	Male	No Response	Total
High school	180	58	4	242
Trade school	16	16	1	33
Some college	148	56	4	208
BA or BS	157	106	3	266
Masters degree	136	86	2	224
Doctorate	42	100	0	142
Other	26	9	0	35
No response	24	18	27	69
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Total	729	449	41	1,219

Percentages of Respondents

	Female	Male	No Response	Total
High school	24.7%	12.9%	9.8%	19.8%
Trade school	2.2	3.6	2.4	2.7
Some college	20.3	12.5	9.8	17.1
BA or BS	21.5	23.6	7.3	21.8
Masters degree	18.7	19.1	4.9	18.4
Doctorate	5.7	22.3	0.0	11.6
Other	3.6	2.0	0.0	2.9
No response	3.3	4.0	65.8	5.7
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Total	59.8%	36.8	3.4	100.0%

Education: Sorted by Age**Numbers of Respondents**

	60 – 64	65 – 74	75 – 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
High school	32	69	100	38	3	242
Trade school	6	11	10	5	1	33
Some college	31	81	68	28	0	208
BA or BS	66	98	84	15	3	266
Masters degree	67	106	40	11	0	224
Doctorate	37	69	29	4	3	142
Other	11	5	16	2	1	35
No response	3	20	17	9	20	69
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Total	253	459	364	112	31	1,219

Percentages of Respondents

	60 – 64	65 – 74	75 – 84	85 and Over	No Response	Total
High school	12.6%	15.0%	27.5%	33.9%	9.7%	19.8%
Trade school	2.4	2.4	2.7	4.5	3.3	2.7
Some college	12.2	17.6	18.7	25.0	0.0	17.1
BA or BS	26.1	21.3	23.1	13.4	9.7	21.8
Masters degree	26.5	23.1	11.0	9.8	0.0	18.4
Doctorate	14.6	15.0	8.0	3.6	9.7	11.6
Other	4.3	1.1	4.4	1.8	3.3	2.9
No response	1.2	4.4	4.7	8.0	64.5	5.7
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Total	20.8%	37.6	29.9	9.2	2.5	100.0%

Respondent Comments about Programs, Services, and Other Issues

Programs Seniors Would Like to See Offered

Arts/Crafts/ Ceramics

- Art classes in outdoor quick sketching (in good weather only).
- Embroidery, textile arts.
- I think I could settle for ceramics, but would prefer pottery.
- Crafts.
- Sewing class.
- Needlepoint.
- Ceramics with a wheel.
- Crocheting.
- Studio facilities for ceramics.
- Oil painting classes.

Card/ Board/Table Games

- Poker.
- Cribbage.
- How about Ping Pong!
- Regular card parties with (?) men too. Poker, rummy, etc.
- Poker.
- Board games.
- Chess lessons. Actually all of these (those listed) sound wonderful.
- Chinche.
- Learning to play Bridge.
- Scrabble, boggle, backgammon.
- Mah Jong.
- Duplicate Bridge.
- Chess.
- Mah Jong.
- Card playing, like whist, pinochle.
- Poker.
- Table tennis – use ping pong table.
- Bingo once a week.
- Chi Gong.
- Cribbage.

Bake Sale/Garage Sale

- How about a cake sale, cookie sale, etc.?
- I would like to have a "garage sale" at the Senior Center so that both the Center and the seller benefit (for instance, coats, skirts, jackets, etc., in very good condition).

Computer Classes

- Computer classes useful for Apple computers.
- Computer classes to cover the use of Apple computers.
- I went to a few computer classes at the senior center but was not happy with the instructor. He is a nice man, but not very organized to teach. I would return to a more serious class.
- I also think that anything that can be done to get all seniors, esp. the older ones, on computers is a real service. A town program where "obsolete" computers could be donated to elders for home use, plus training, would be wonderful to ease any lonely days and give access to info.
- Computer mentors – one-on-one in home at home computer.
- Computer access.
- Lesson on my laptop computer.

Cooking Classes

- Cooking classes with vegetarian recipes.

Discussion Groups/Lecture Series

- Book club.
- Book club.
- Political discussion and organizing.
- Current affairs group discussions.
- Local political awareness group. Perhaps there could be seniors room in main library.
- Discussion group on national/local/international issues.
- Conversation/discussion re: local affairs (political, etc.), religious/cultural/sports/current events – events.
- A senior group at the League to discuss possible special interests of seniors – or do you have that already?
- Discussions on town-wide issues.
- Civic/electioneering.
- Legal advice
- Financial, law, etc.

Drop-In Center

- At 86 with very poor walking, I would enjoy just getting to a place where I would meet and talk to others, but it would need to be very close to public transportation for me to be able to participate. I read 6-8 books per week and did volunteer work for five years at Waverley before my problems began. Before that I was a volunteer at Stillman Infirmary at Harvard Health Services for eight years.
- Any of the above would be nice – I guess just meeting and being with others is fun.
- A drop-in center that is open at night. The nights are very long when we all live alone.
- Drop-in center at new senior center.

Exercise/Fitness

- Strength building and stretch exercises.
- Exercise equipment.
- A fully equipped exercise center is essential -- workout facility, weight machines, treadmills, aerobic machines.
- Would like easier access to a health club (I go to Waltham), and reduced rates for using them in daytime.
- Aqua aerobics.
- Aqua aerobics.
- Reliable aerobic swim program.
- Senior Center with a full gym. A gym with a treadmill and exercise machines – exercise bikes and strengthening.
- Meditation.
- Meditation.
- Water aerobics at the High School pool.
- Some sort of physical therapy program perhaps combined with strength and flexibility that would include occupational therapy skills – i.e., lifting, carrying (not injuring yourself).
- Any exercise activity.
- I bike a lot. The more bike paths, bike lanes, easy street crossings the better.
- Exercise – besides Yoga and Aerobics.
- Yoga for younger seniors.
- Some form of speed walking – so when they try to cross very poorly protected roads, they will not get run over by very fast-traveling cars, trucks, and buses – like the poor senior who got killed because she was too slow.
- Would like a room equipped with exercise and weight-training machines.
- Gym.
- Water aerobics – with an instructor.
- Aerobics is great.
- Aerobics for men and women.
- I would like classes to be offered, also exercises, for those seniors who also work.

- Free admission or discounted admission to Belmont swimming pools.
- I am sure Belmont seniors would benefit from strength training.
- Half hour aerobics, half hour exercises.
- Slow exercise for people with arthritis.

Foreign Languages

- Spanish language classes.
- Spanish language classes.
- Would like French courses.
- Foreign languages: French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Arabic.
- Spanish language lessons.

Gardening/Flower Arranging

- Window sill gardening flowers. Maybe a small section to learn to grow flowers from cuttings and seed.
- For gardening, container gardens.
- Specific to Waverley Oaks and Sherman Gardens: Could Garden Club take over gardens here for seniors? Means so much to us – also contributions asked for (in memory of) Gardens for Seniors. Many people here need lovely places to sit in good weather. A man at Waverley Oaks does it (gardening) at his own expense. He is on moderate means.
- Floral arrangement.
- Flower arranging.
- Would be willing, possibly, to offer garden advice to elders on how to redo garden to make less difficult to maintain. I did some design work for community garden in Dorchester. [Fails to give us any further information, so can't follow up]

Intergenerational Programs

- Think a mentoring program for middle school age group might be good for seniors and young people.
- Intergenerational/civic opportunities for seniors.
- An intergenerational aerobics program, where a senior can have a pre-teen “buddy” with whom exercise and good nutrition can be learned. Nutrition and exercise are very important for all ages, and the increase in high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes among young people really needs to be addressed.

Library

- I would like to see Belmont emulate the Newton Public Library in the number of free lectures, travel talks, and concerts/recitals that they have.
- A branch library at the Senior Center would be ideal.
- Library – more books on tape needed for visually impaired.

- The Waverley Library is very important as I can walk to it. The Library is the only thing of interest in Waverley district. Save the Library at Waverley.
- Books on tape.
- Not enough current VHS (movies) in our library.
- Re: the questioning of “mixed (?) use” for the proposed Senior Center – note the Adult Day Care option, and the value of incorporating a branch library.
- Branch library should be part of Senior Center.
- Keep a branch library in Waverley area. I hope to see a new senior center.
- Do not want to have the branch library leave the Waverley area; they need to find a new space for it, after Fire House is sold.
- Senior citizen delivery for library.
- The library [category in list] is misleading since the living room in the Senior Center has books to lend but is not the real library I want – advocate a [real] library at new senior center.
- Library is most important!!

Life-Long Learning

- I think we need to have more interesting classes to keep the mind active and interested.
- There are some serious gaps in my education in areas that didn't seem critically important in H.S., college and grad. programs, and now I feel these gaps enormously. They are all in the science and math domains. Perhaps courses could help but what would be more efficient would be opportunities for conversation, discussion, question and answer with an expert retired senior citizen.
- Continue life-long learning programs run by seniors.
- Possibly philosophy or history lectures.
- Institutes for Learning in Retirement are active at Harvard, B.C., and Tufts. From involvement at both B.C. and Harvard, it seems to me that an I.L.R. could be organized by Belmont and the local authorities. Thank you for your concern, which is much appreciated.

Line Dancing

- No longer go to line dancing. Used to go to classes, but present teacher does not teach the line dances we want to do.
- We need a better teacher than we have for line dancing.
- Would like a better line dancing teacher.

Money Management

- Investment lecture.
- Investment advice.
- Money management courses (not just stock market), including inheritance, trusts, etc.

Music Programs

- The Newton Public Library has free classical music concerts (piano, quartets, etc.) often, using talented Newton resident musicians. It would be nice to have this in Belmont.
- Piano lessons.
- Musical workshop.
- Musical entertainment.
- Music lessons.
- Music appreciation.
- Get-togethers for people who play instruments (piano, guitar, banjo, etc.).
- Amateur music group.
- Stories of the operas.
- Concerts of the Big Band music – e.g. Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, . . . (?), Tommy Dorsey, etc.

Photography

- I have seen many people using the new digital cameras. I would love to buy one but I have no idea how to get them into my computer or put them on a CD. I would attend classes on this subject if they were available.

Play Reading/Drama

- Drama group? – of course, have some of these things available in the summer – easiest time to get around – no snow/sleet.
- Play-reading group. Acton has one.
- Play reading group.
- Group participation in the reading of plays.

Social Activities/Dancing

- A club activity and possibly cocktails for socializing with friends.
- Social dancing for seniors.
- Plan on weekend activities – many “younger” seniors still work, and other responsibilities. Consider sponsoring some dances, “pick-up” instrumental concerts by seniors.
- Ballroom dancing and lessons.
- A classic (?) dance class. We need a new dance teacher.
- Several dinner/dances (DJ) per year at reasonable cost for single and coupled seniors, together with possible themes – Valentines, St. Pats., etc.
- Ballroom dancing lessons and dances. Evening drop-in/social activities.
- Food and wine group. Singles events/ “dating” service.
- Men’s group, veterans group.

- Pot luck suppers, informal talent shows with seniors providing the talent, scrabble evenings, poetry slams (?). I wish we had a pub or at least a drop-in coffee bar.
- Pot luck dinners.
- Group luncheons at various restaurants (local).
- Pot luck dinners.
- A lunch room where people can meet and socialize – after lunch – perhaps a little entertainment of some sort.
- Single dances for seniors 50 and up.
- Coffee/chat group.
- Special events.
- Have holiday parties.
- Club-like social get-togethers.
- Pot-luck dinners

Special Needs Programs/Handicap Accessible

- Inclusion of handicapped individuals. Other communities include handicapped in activities, or have an active Council for Handicapped. I would like to see and use such a program.
- Activities for people with MACULAR DEGENERATION.
- Programs for the blind.
- Handicap access to programs. Senior Center – combined in building with Library access. Senior Center for all and not “welfare or low-income oriented.” I have a problem walking.
- All programs and activities need to be fully wheelchair-accessible, including outings/trips.
- Easy access for the handicapped. Important to be able to park and enter building. Having health problems now, but hoping to improve.

Sports/Outdoor Activities

- Ice skating, swimming classes.
- Golf.
- Golf outings.
- Hiking group!
- Tennis.
- Golf lessons – time to show us how to swing club carefully. Golf days at clubs that the elderly can afford.
- Active sports: tennis, softball, soccer, hiking.
- Ice skating and ski trips.
- Senior snow skiing trips and ice hockey program.
- Pair up tennis players.
- Golf trips.
- Senior softball and/or tennis.
- Golf.

- Golf instructions, discount golf rates, golf league.
- Firing range, archery.
- Hiking group.
- Bicycle trips.

Travelogues

- Armchair travel – reports and slides from trips.
- Travelogues.

Trips

- Sometimes a trip to a local restaurant by Belderbus for some, cars for others (carpool).
- Bus to Boston Symphony.
- Trips to Kennedy Library lecture series; Museum of Fine Arts film series; opera trips to Boston opera and Met/NY City opera in NYC.
- Restaurant, night club visits.
- Foxwoods/Mohecan Sun day trips. Shopping trips (ex. Nordstrom's).
- Trips to Red Sox games.
- Affordable day trips.
- Visit historical sites.
- Trips.
- Local walks of historical areas.
- Trips with active, involved positive seniors.
- Day trips that do not emphasize meals or shopping.
- Not too expensive overnight trips.
- Day trips to Christmas tree store and lunch. North or South Shore malls and lunch. Casino day trips. Theater trips to "local" plays, e.g., Stoneham Theater, etc.
- More choice on museum visits. More choice on symphony series.
- Would like to see more day trips, sightseeing, good restaurants, no entertainment. Have ideas to organize own bus trips – making it even cheaper and more money for Senior Center instead of choosing what's being offered. [Gives us her name if we want to follow up on this]
- Duck tour. Misses . . . ? museum.
- We [she and her husband] would like some programs during weekends.

Volunteering Opportunities

- Providing seniors with a sense of self, dignity through the opportunity to volunteer the remarkable skills they have gained over a lifetime, e.g. teaching, accounting, gardening, investing, museum docent, computers, language, photography, etc.
- Tutoring students and SAT prep. If you modeled the latter like for-profit SAT prep, it could be a huge money raiser for the Senior Center.

- Perhaps assisting in grammar schools by reading – working one on one with child who needs a bit of extra help.
- If I were able to be in the community [lives in a nursing home] I would want to be doing something useful, one 80 yr. old friend in Arlington helps at the Food Pantry. I'd like the Senior Center to be more of a clearing house of information and assistance linking people to useful things. I say on the back – I'd want to know what I could do to be useful in my community. I am more work/service oriented than recreation. Examples: tutoring students, teaching English, literacy, Food Pantry, helping at a thrift shop, book keeping, stuffing envelopes – something with a purpose. After I'd done something like that in a week, I'd be more ready for recreation.
- Volunteer vocations.
- A senior volunteer organization available nationwide whereby seniors could volunteer in the town, esp. the schools.
- Encourage more active involvement in political, social welfare and in environmental affairs. Volunteer opportunities at schools, playgrounds and on bicycling trips – and a docent for walking trips through Belmont, Cambridge, and Boston
- Belmont has residents with great experience and talents who could volunteer their services for lecturing and other activities.
- Volunteering opportunities.
- Use volunteers to organize/give programs.
- Provide voluntary help to town in various ways – planting, clean-up of parks or public areas, small repairs to town property, painting, etc., etc. (in groups).
- This is a very comprehensive list. However, I would like to suggest the schools provide a “wish list” of needs – such as help in the library, tutoring, etc., thus enabling the numerous qualified seniors to volunteer their help and experience on a regular basis geared to the school year.
- How seniors may take an active part in solving town-wide issues.

Senior Volunteer Support for Homebound

- One of the greatest needs is not a large senior center but a solid volunteer program. Most will need some help from the community at some time, if not in Belmont then in some other town. If we all help where we are able, then our own needs may be met someday.
- Support groups or telephone companions to call homebound elderly for chats – Some elderly too sick to take advantage of such programs and activities.
- Have retired people (seniors) available for home services: carpentry, yard work, painting, repairs, etc., for pay of course, but free for the infirm or needy seniors.
- Call-in/check up via telephone – i.e., daily telephone contact by volunteers with shut-ins. Orientation/lecture on resources available to elderly – focus on “Aging in Place” strategies.
- A volunteer group of seniors helping seniors – i.e., transportation, housekeeping, minor maintenance, shopping, etc.

- A recent Globe article describes a Beacon Hill neighborhood mutual care programs. Might such be developed in Belmont?
- Seniors helping house-bound seniors – telephone visits.

Woodworking

- Woodwork shop; efforts to appeal to 60s and 70s age range men and women (as well as older folks).
- Wood working (both furniture making and refinishing).
- Wood working.
- Woodworking.
- Workshops, including wood, electrical, small (?)...

Other Types of Programs

- I would like a program, or part of a program, aimed at the study and appreciation of trees and the environment.
- Take some classes a little different – say Astrology, etc.
- Railroad related programs – hobby and other - clearing house to put individuals with similar interests together regardless of age.
- I would like old classic movies.
- Quiet afternoon activities.

Would Like Services Later On Perhaps

- I have not been active in senior activities because I have a summer home also. However, I may have a need to get involved later on.
- Can't think of any at the moment. I'm certain things will change.
- Will be better able to comment on retirement.
- I work full-time and do not participate in anything at the moment. However, I feel that a wide variety of activities should be available for seniors and young people too -- also young mothers.
- Although a "Senior," still working and looking forward to participating in above activities.
- Note: I have construed the first column as meaning "right now" and the second column as "town-sponsored." Thus, my current answer to all is "no." But currently I do many of these activities on my own or with my wife. But the day may well come when my answers will be different.
- I am still working full-time as CEO of a national org. – very busy, and have a 16 yr. old son, so am not identifying or acting yet as a senior. Don't know what I think about activities or services. But thank you for doing this.
- Still at an age and health level where we independently engage in cultural, recreational activities in the Boston area. Survey us in five years and we might be more inclined to organized senior programs.
- I am 60 and do not use the Senior Center. My mother (age 82) does make use of the Center.

- Currently am healthy enough to plan and do my own activities, but can foresee using some of the above at a later time, such as aerobics, walking, strength training, theater and symphony trips, etc.
- I am not yet retired, so many of these don't apply. When I retire I will be interested in the "mind" activities – lectures, forums, etc. No exercise things. I walk a lot, but prefer to do it by myself (my wife goes with friends). Also, I don't enjoy group events like museum trips, so I can't see myself doing that.
- As yet I have not really participated in any programs. I hope to soon.
- I have just retired, but in 10-15 years I may need the programs and services checked off. Thanks for asking.
- It's difficult to answer these questions since I'm still working.
- At 78 yrs., answers will differ greatly within a few years, no place on this form for 1-2-5 years hence.
- The days I work conflict with some of the activities I might have participated in.
- As a "youngish" senior, I don't need some of these options, or get them elsewhere. So I will answer this for seniors in general, and me perhaps in a few years.
- I have a friend who participates in many of your activities and really enjoys them. At a later date I will probably attend some computer classes.
- I am retired Harvard University lecturer, and continue to do some writing work at home. For this I need no help. But I would love to participate in activities marked above. Thank you.
- Would like services I checked in future years.
- Some that I have not checked I do believe, in the future, I might want to participate in – such as art.
- Not ready as yet for services but would like them available in the future.
- Not at this point, but who knows about the future.
- At this point in my life (age 68) I can pursue activities outside senior center sponsorship. I checked activities that I participate in now – but not in any senior programs.
- For the moment, I'm still very self-sufficient and prefer not to belong to groups, tho a few more living friends would be nice.
- Even at 76 still walking, doing surveying of Belmont properties for building permits. At present time do not use Senior Center – perhaps when I get older.

Cannot Take Part

- I cannot participate at present in many activities but always enjoyed them in the past and appreciated the variety offered to seniors.
- I would like to do activities but it is impossible for me due to my illness, but coming along thank GOD.
- I think your list is very comprehensive but because I have family responsibilities I cannot participate.
- Thank you – not interested – I am 95 years old and have difficulty getting around.
- Too old to participate.

- I am disabled and homebound, and cannot participate. I do think you should have all the above.
- At present my right knee is very painful following surgery. Some of the listed activities I would like to do when my knee is recovered.
- I don't own a car, so I cannot participate in activities and programs.

Would Not Participate in Programs

- In general, I find that friends in my age groups (I'm 62) don't feel that we want or will use a senior center. Everyone intends to stay too busy to need that, and we will probably choose our friends by interest not age. I have been thinking that the main justification for a Council on Aging and a few offices for employees and volunteers, plus equipment, will be to help older seniors who cannot get out or manage their homes without some help. Since there are and will be elders whose children don't live nearby, or who do not have children, it seems that home (?) based assistance would be the next best thing. In #3, the checked items are the services that some may need at an advanced age.
- Although retired, I lead an active life, going in to my office 4-5 days per week, working out 3-4 times per week, traveling, shopping, cooking, etc. Wife works full time. I do not anticipate needing community services for the foreseeable future.
- The things I participate already in, I do not do through any town service. I do them primarily on my own.
- Any/all are desirable if would be used. I would not use them.
- I do not attend the Senior Center. I do not like to be with one special age group. I prefer to be in organizations with mixed ages and that have a special purpose.
- I'm not yet inclined to see myself in the exclusive company of "seniors." [didn't check any programs]
- Not interested in senior activities. Taxes are high enough. I don't need the town to entertain me.
- None. These are costly – we do not need these activities.
- I prefer mixed age groups. I find activities "for seniors" unattractive and in some ways discriminatory. [marked no programs]
- None. I live the life of a 40-50 year old person.
- We do several of [the listed programs] with friends, but not town programs.
- Don't need any of these programs.

Miscellaneous

- An ombudsman for the Board of Selectmen, who would sit on the Board at all of its meetings and executive sessions but would have no vote to upset the 3-vote system and would represent the interests of seniors.
- None currently. Why not put trout in pond at High School. If so, I would fish there.
- The cost factor of participating in some of programs offered – that may make it difficult for some seniors to participate.

- I am retired last year and I would like to participate in some of the listed activities but where are they located? If possible, please send me information. [gave name and address.]
- Services and programs exclusive of the Senior Center faculty.
- I participate with some of the activities listed above with private groups or clubs (that is why they are double-checked). Dance classes, sewing, needlepoint.
- The Belmont Senior Center I find to be depressing. Bill Morris was very upbeat and had some excellent extra-curriculum projects.
- We spend winters in Franconia, NH, and most of the summers in Martha's Vineyard. We have/are living in Belmont for 29 years.
- More direct contact with Belmont's Representative (Paulsen) and Senator (Tolman).
- I am 82 and I'm grateful for what I can do.
- I think that Belmont's senior programs are satisfactory for the time being. I was disappointed that Bill Morris had to resign.
- Feelings were briefly touched. I'd like to know how many feel lonely, disengaged, what they do all day – sleep, watch TV, mope. If you asked, "Do you take meals on wheels?" you could analyze the subject better.

Comments on Health and Social Services

All Services Should Be Available

- On top of services, of course need decent air conditioning/heating systems.
- There is a wide age range among “seniors.” There should be a balance of activities for active younger, just retired seniors, and seniors who need more assistance. However, more focus and monies should be spent on support for seniors who are in need.
- All the above (services) are important to seniors.
- I realize that I am very fortunate but that others have health and/or financial worries that I would like to see addressed. We should have a national healthcare system financed from general taxation—(dream on!!). That would be a great help to many seniors.
- These things should all be available, but not at cost to town. It would be nice to see most of the things above available to seniors – but maybe most could be for fee.
- Most of the above should be available to people who need them.
- All programs sound desirable, not necessarily without fee, but without hassle.
- See question #2. Human kind needs bread and roses.
- These are basics for an aging population.
- Most services are boutique style and not regular.
- People in every age group need to pay a “reasonable” fee for every service used (in questions 1 and 3).
- All of the above services are good to have.

Adult Day Care

- Adult Day Care Option.
- Adult day care.
- Re: the questioning of “mixed (?) use” for the proposed Senior Center – note the Adult Day Care option.
- Adult day care for seniors. Most senior centers have associated self-supporting adult day-care. To contemplate a new building and not explore this option seems very short-sighted given the demographics of the town.
- Adult children taking care of their older parents need help – with some help a lot of seniors can avoid ending in nursing homes. The State, if not the Town, should help. I went through that experience 10 years ago and it was extremely hard.
- Day care for seniors.
- The only service the town should provide is an adult daycare center for its residents. It is a shame that town residents have to travel to neighboring towns to access this type of service. Such a program would allow seniors to extend the length of time they can remain in their present home environment while providing respite for their care givers.

Caregiver Support Group

- Groups for loss of spouse or coping with major illness.
- Would like as many as possible [of those services listed], also caregiver support group.

Clearing House for Information

- Information about access to town and social programs.
- Bulletin Board – of daily activities on the Cable Channel.
- Information/guidance for newly retired seniors, perhaps like the programs offered by Newton Community Education. Ways to connect to the community for people who have been busy with work and now are starting a new life.
- A unified, comprehensive plan/agency to coordinate all activities. One-stop shopping (perhaps already exists, but feel it's all fragmented).

Dog Walking and Pet Care

- Dog walking groups. Emergency dog walking by volunteers when owner is ill. Emergency assistance with pets.
- Pet care during absences.
- Dog sitting/house sitting when we're away.

Health Services/Medical Counseling

- Cholesterol screening.
- Lectures by experts in medical and psychological issues.
- I cannot participate in any outside programs because I am blind and have sciatica. Eventually I may need someone to accompany me to medical appointments and have domestic help.
- Aging issues, depression, keeping a limber body.
- Emphasize more on the loneliness of some seniors, afraid or too shy to meet their peers.
- Wife has rectal cancer; operated on Feb. 3; another operation in 6 weeks plus 6 months of chemotherapy. Between visiting nurses and me and friends and 3 kids we cope OK so far.
- Food and nutrition for seniors. Advice in self-help or basic care in own home.
- Useful services that would keep me out of the nursing home.
- I feel there should be a strong emphasis on prevention, being proactive, and generally taking care of one's body and mind – nutrition especially.
- Medicare is not adequately funded for future generation.
- Assistance in setting up and ordering pills.
- Probably couldn't use hot lunch program because of my allergies.
- Lecture series on women's issues – health, aging, cognition/aging brain.
- Updated entitlement programs and legislation as changes occur.
- Access to counseling on personal and medical issues and on aging issues.
- War veteran needs.

- Low income – how to get Medicaid, especially if a nursing home becomes needed (Belmont Manor).
- Cooking for elderly – easy healthy meals related to different health situations – i.e., cardiac, high blood pressure, etc.
- Quit smoking group/program. Read to vision impaired.
- Health insurance premiums/benefits/costs for elderly. Thank you.
- Dental screening.
- I have had medical insurance counseling, but would like more “in-depth” info describing differences between plans, both pro and con. Literature which is sent only seems to confuse you more.
- Depends on the subject whether would like health education seminars.
- I doubt I would take advantage of a senior center, but I think it is important for the elderly to have access to flu shots, blood pressure checks, etc. And help with minor repairs, shoveling, raking . . .
- Diabetes clinic.
- Some kind of regular “triage,” “hot line.” Brief contact around emergencies and reference to outside services.
- VNA (?) health clinics.
- Lack of sensitivity to range of health, life styles, etc. of “over 60’s” My concerns are very different from the “classic” stereotyped “senior citizen.”
- More education about the many health issues seniors face – with discussion groups on coping with them. Health care issues of the aging. Information and discussion groups re. eyes (cataracts), hearing loss, arthritic pain, signs of Alzheimer’s memory lapses (dealing with them).
- Help for visually impaired with, e.g., bill paying.
- Lectures on medical/aging issues.
- Medical advice.
- Dental consultations and recommendations.
- Sources for making house/apartment easier to care for (install attractive step railings, for instance).
- Flu shot – getting like black market – do not have enough so only those on the in know how and where to get it. No newspaper notices, etc.

Household and Yard Help Needed/Reliable Repair Services

- Lawn care and snow removal is very expensive for seniors living on fixed incomes.
- “Heavy lifting” such as rearranging furniture, carrying boxes to and from attic. This is often important after surgery.
- House maintenance. Household help.
- Obtaining excellent people for house repairs, carpentry, etc., at reasonable, or modest, rates.
- Would like to see matching kids or teens with seniors to have yard work done or flower planting.
- Need some help cleaning yard and shoveling walks, etc., in winter and spring.
- Leaf removal.

- Sometimes (now) I cannot drive. Snow removal is a problem.
- You do list minor repairs, but finding good reasonable workmen is one of my biggest headaches. Labor costs are exorbitant and very few people will recommend workers they have used.
- Access to someone for snow removal at our property during winter months.
- Home repair advice.
- List of good repairmen or companies.
- Major companies – home improvement, plumbing, electricians - that Council on Aging endorses. It's hard to find honest workmen.
- Grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions, etc., for seniors who are housebound for health reasons or who cannot drive or live too far away to walk to stores, etc.
- Food shopping and delivery when and if necessary.
- Leaf pick-up.
- Help to clean attic, garage, yard – I need this now. Who will help me in an emergency? (snow removal – heart attack). Something that needs my immediate attention?
- If I am ill or not able to drive, would like to know there's, perhaps, a high school student to pick up a prescription from the drug store or purchase necessary groceries.
- Not able to do my own housework. I would greatly appreciate help with household chores.
- Help for seniors and disabled for shoveling.
- A listing of qualified and honest home repair contractors.
- Someone to replace light bulb in ceiling fixture.
- Affordable, ongoing house cleaning and repairs, yard work. How about assigning students twice a week (like written up in the Belmont Citizen for home aides)?
- After school helper – for errands and assistance. Prefer middle-schooler helper. Part-time after school or Saturdays.
- I would like to be able to call someone to get a name of some people that I can call for raking, snow shoveling, and general help around the house. I don't mind paying a fair fee.
- Would like some low-cost household help, cleaning inside and out.
- We would be happy to pay for snow removal. But even when contracted it is never done.
- Handyman services (help with small repairs, i.e. electric, plumbing).
- Major home repairs – recommendations.

Job Hunting Help

- Job search assistance.
- Help seniors to find jobs. I desperately need a part-time job. I was laid off in late July and cannot find a job - office work, computers, data entry.
- Employment opportunities – central pool of talent - data base of talent, interests. Barter programs.
- Would it be possible to set up some type of program to make seniors aware of any part-time work (even a day a week) to help out financially?

Meals on Wheels

- A better, edible menu from meals-on-wheels. I have had them twice and could not eat them and canceled them. I find that other seniors agree with me.
- The meals-on-wheels program is poor quality.

Public Transportation and Rides for Seniors

- I'd like to see parking near public transportation available for seniors so that trips to Cambridge or Boston lasting 3-4 hours could be made.
- No longer drive. Can walk with a walker, but can't get out without someone to take me. Need people to take you places. I need and want to get out once in awhile.
- Direct transport to Boston.
- I wish Belmont had some provision for transporting patients to appointments in Boston, i.e., MGH, Brigham and Women's, etc.
- Bus service. Prefer MBTA from Cushing Square to Belmont Center.
- Medical service to Mass. General Hospital for eye.
- Shuttle bus to Alewife T station.
- You mentioned cross-town busing, which I think is very important. I don't utilize the Senior Center because it is too far away to walk and there is no bus service unless I am enormously active and I have to conserve energy.
- Internal bus and transportation.
- I would like rides outside Boston.
- Bus route from Belmont to Arsenal Mall. Extra bus stop on route of 74/75 or 72/75 at end of Huron Ave. in Belmont at corner of Grove St./Veterans Cemetery (or in between Huron Towers and Blanchard Road).
- Transportation around town such as Belmont Center to Waverley to Cushing, etc.
- Rides to Belmont Women's Club.
- Rides to dentist and hospital.
- Available transportation to the activities listed.
- Keep taxi service and bus and trolley service to Harvard Sq. and Boston and Waltham.
- Lack of cross-town transportation.
- Availability of rides to appointments and Senior Center.
- We also need more public transportation such as a bus to Alewife.
- To get from Winn Brook to Cushing Sq. or Waverley Sq. is impossible without going through Harvard Sq. Cross-town transportation is most important. Even from Winn Brook to the Center is impossible.
- Transportation to hospital and medical visits.
- Belmont seniors need a bus or shuttle that will directly take them to the Alewife Station (Red Line), so they may enjoy Boston's theaters, restaurants, special events, and shopping. The Concord Avenue bus runs too infrequently during the day and evening and there are no shelters for seniors to take cover when it is raining or snowing, or during freezing weather conditions. Not only would a bus

- or shuttle to and from Alewife be great for seniors, but would be a great time saver and convenience for all Belmont residents.
- Better transportation, especially at night and on Sundays on the 73 bus. At night only every 30 minutes and it always is very crowded. Only once an hour or so on Sundays. Please put the Senior Center near Public Transportation.
 - Transportation.
 - YES, need rides to doctors, shopping, etc.
 - SCM [?] offered superb transportation services but was canceled by Belmont with apparently no notice to anybody.
 - Be able to indicate when we need some transportation – less expensive than a taxi -- for instance, to symphony (daytime only). My husband and I need transportation (besides regular taxi service) with or without other people to outside Boston area. We will pay a fee according to destination.

Security and Safety

- Security and safety. Precautions to feel safe and secure. Taken advantage of by persons who pose as your helpers.
- Also I have heard upsetting things about aides gotten from your home aide list. Had I been her supervisor, she would have been instantly dismissed. You do not leave a helpless woman in the shower while you clean up the kitchen. And recipients are somewhat afraid of these people. You need to screen better, especially rude [?] and meanness.

Services for the Homebound

- I am 92 years old, suffer from macular degeneration.
- I am taking care alone of a blind daughter.
- In home as needed, short-term services.
- Services for homebound elderly – not ready to leave their home because they are managing but could use more resources from community, such as cleaning, financial help, and telephone chat line to break up the boredom and support other homebound elderly. Council on Aging could set up a line to check on elders who live alone – once a week/or month.
- More information on home care services. Some of my friends have them and, as a nurse, I am impressed with their quality.
- Look in to seeing people who may need some help only sometimes, not all the time.
- Helping infirm people stay in their homes by finding help at home -- either part-time or live-in. Perhaps in exchange for renting a room -- which would also help the affordable rentals in Belmont.
- My problem is if I lose the presence of my friend or the house, I would be unable to manage myself.
- The main concern for most seniors is if no family, friends, or people who care about each other.
- Help for shut-ins – telephone check.

- Access to help in emergencies – some sort of daily check for people living alone.
- Availability of home care/health aides to support seniors who wish to remain independent and in place. Also, alternatives to this is affordability, and absence of immediate family support is an issue.
- Wish there was more specific information concerning what to do should a national emergency occur.
- Health aides, care giving.
- The best way for financially managing to stay at home when health problems indicate the need of assisted living or nursing home answers.
- Maybe this is in effect – a telephone calling system to call seniors at a given time to make sure all is well (this would be every day).
- Phone check up on home-bound.
- Being called by someone for a chat.
- Telephone calls to shut-ins.
- Companionship by phone.

Tax Help

- I would very much like assistance in going over my income taxes. I am newly widowed and do have an accountant, but would like to be able to check on what is necessary to avoid errors as we pay our taxes, etc.
- Help organizing annual income tax for the IRS (tax preparation).

Comments about Other Issues

We Need a New Senior Center

- A senior center is very important for many people who are alone and need to be active and be with other people. Why are we paying rent for a center? Many people may not be here by the time the new center is built. We have the money. What are they waiting for?
- Need to move ahead with senior center at Kendall site and stop dipping into Insurance Fund. This takes some usage pressure from the Main Library. Waverley branch library on second floor would also do this. I am against a youth center. We have schools, field house, and athletic facilities for same, and 10 year olds (5th grade) shouldn't be out "hanging around" anyway. Parenting classes needed!?
- I'd like a new senior center close to a library.
- There should be a new senior center, just for adults, with a library branch. Thank you.
- Build the senior center at Kendall. Stop using Kendall insurance money for other things.
- Belmont should build a Senior Center at Kendall property and stop using the insurance funds for non-Kendall matters. There are many good programs and activities at the present Senior Center, but the facility is inadequate, and Belmont should build a Senior Center on the Kendall property, including a kitchen and dining room.
- How about our own Senior Center?
- (1.) New center must have many small rooms for simultaneous activities (or have pull-across temporary room dividers that shut out noise pretty well; (2) lots of parking available 24/7 when/as needed, expecting increased usage; (3) plenty of windows/daylight; (4) ? area for hearty luncheon main meals? (5) easy access for wheelchairs, into and within building; (6) if a second floor, of course large elevator.
- I often go to other communities for some of the services you requested we checked. As I get older I would like to have them more actively available in Belmont. Thank you for sending this questionnaire.
- Need for new Senior Center ASAP – one that is welcoming to all ages of seniors.
- I think in building a senior center, that there should be a second floor on this building, also that we should have a library and an arts center. We should not waste this land or opportunity to get as much use as we possibly can from this site.
- Important for seniors to have a place, for the benefit of Belmont community.
- The Senior Center should have a hall, with a stage, for entertainment /lectures/courses, exhibitions, etc.
- We should have our own Senior Center – not rented by the town at the church. The town doesn't seem to care where we are located -- town should own the building at Center site. Town w/man/resources [?]. Rumors out there that new fire department will happen regardless of what we vote for. It keeps coming up!!

- Permanent senior center.
- A new senior center which would be open every day and some evenings.
- A Senior Citizen Center.
- Belmont seniors need access to a first-class senior center – here in Belmont or in a neighboring community.
- We need a Senior Center.
- Senior Center with a full gym.
- We need a new senior center like other towns have (i.e., Winchester). Town needs to make this one of its highest priorities!!!!
- I would like the future senior center to include a branch library and space for other town functions. Land is scarce in Belmont, making it important to plan well all new projects.
- Would love to see a new Senior Center. The large hall is so cold and not fit for elderly to visit. We all wore our coats while we were in the meeting.
- Thank you for asking for input. The nearer it comes, the closer it appears to be to those of us who may be here to utilize the facilities.
- I am concerned about seeing and ever enjoying a senior center.
- None except we need a good COA center. Belmont does not come close to the quality of COA centers in surrounding towns.
- Seniors need a Center of their own, not to be shared with teenagers!
- The town needs a permanent Senior Center.
- Updating Senior Center – taxes – streets – sidewalks – snow plowing.
- The senior center should become a reality as soon as possible.
- Active seniors need meaningful activities and opportunities to earn money, learn and share their collective knowledge.
- We need a senior center that will help seniors get out and be active. Thanks for addressing the senior issues.
- The present senior center is depressing and doesn't appeal to me. Would like Senior Center near stores, eating places, etc., and transportation. It would be nice if the students could use the Senior Center on Friday evenings under supervision.
- Parking. A good permanent senior center.
- A Senior Center is needed!
- Please help to get a Senior Center a reality. The money was there – slowly going to other things.
- I appreciate your interest in the seniors of Belmont. The Senior Center is a wonderful Center and Resource. Please make it continue and improve.

Believe It when I See It!

- How soon will the center be built? Procrastinate, procrastinate . . .
- When will we actually have a Senior Center?!
- The LWV should conduct a poll – how many years will it take to open the new Senior Center?. Skip one year. Pick 2-3 4. Concern: by the time our town government opens the Senior Center, I don't think many of us (I am one) who are waiting, will be here, especially if they will ask seniors to pay for it.

- By the time a Senior Center is operational I have some concerns that my children will be the ones still waiting for it to happen. Survey this and survey that. You must be ashamed to send another. This has been a joke in the town if you are a senior citizen!! Belmont, the Town of Homes (if you can afford it).
- Filling this out is a waste of my time, and you people know it.
- All I hear the last 10 years is the new Senior Center one survey after another. I will believe it when I see it, but then again my eyesight is not very good.

Leave Center Where It Is

- I don't think it is a good idea to have the senior center on the Kendall School site. Too hard to get to for a lot of seniors.
- Leave Senior Center where it is, convenient location on public transport, walking distance to restaurants, least expensive alternative.

Community not Senior Center

- I would like to see a Community Center. It's depressing to see only old people. In a community center we'd see young people and we could help them with math, languages, etc., and we could provide an audience for their plays, recitals, etc. High time we had a community center. Years ago, I and others plugged for a community center and were dismissed, so I'm wondering if this questionnaire pages, postage, time, and energy is another waste of time? Why not take an honest vote, why not listen to us?
- Rethink the plan for a senior center – maintain services for seniors – far better for the community to have a Community Center for the town to use for shared activities of other groups.
- The bigger picture in Belmont is to have a community that fosters a rich intergenerational accord. While I laud the effort to make senior life better programmatically, it should be put in the frame of reference that engages all generations and not just niche programming for each generation.
- Thanks for asking! Not specifically for seniors, but I have been thinking that it would be nice to have adult hours for the exercise equipment at the high school. Adults pay so much in taxes for athletic programs for children and teens – we need exercise too, and it seems odd that the town doesn't make more effort to provide adult hours, encourage us to use the facilities, etc. Lots of seniors walk for exercise, but Belmont has been terrible at maintaining roads and sidewalks so twisted ankles and falls are a hazard. When I have time I take adult ed. courses. Adult ed. is wonderful –
- Can't see any reason for separate courses for seniors. Perhaps the vacation trips are an exception, providing company and transportation – even some younger seniors might like that (but not me, so far).
- I would like to see a community center with activities available to all.
- I think it is more important to spend money on a community center rather than an exclusive Senior Center.
- Would like to see a Community Center.

- Would like mixed-use center - multigenerational. Do not need new library - upgrade building.

Town Spending Priorities

- Senior programs are important but need to adjust to other needs in the community – child care and preparing teens to be responsible adults. Weekend social activities for teens, supervised.
- Can the Town of Belmont get federal or state grants for some of these services?
- In question 3, I would approve all or almost all the services if funded by the state or federal government.
- Most senior services are a waste of town resources.
- Roads, school budget and library are very high priority.
- It seems to me that with some obvious exceptions such as “library,” “meals on wheels,” most of the programs and activities and health and social services listed are normally undertaken privately, among family, friends, clubs, and by other community organizations. (There would surely be much redundancy in providing many of these through the town.) Assuming that any town response to many of the listed services would be at cost to town taxpayers, it seems to me there should be another question or two here: Should the town respond to these “needs and concern”? To which ones at what cost?
- The town clearly must catch up on deferred maintenance and not allow further deterioration of our educational system through increased class sizes, etc. Rather than construct a new library, we should, at a fraction of the cost, staff the existing one (and the branches) so that they are open longer hours and available when people want to use them. All of these issues are not unique to the senior age people, but apply to people of all ages. We should not think of catering to seniors per se, but do a better job across the board for people of all ages.
- Education quality; teachers’ pay; extracurricular activities including music, drama, science, literature, newspaper.
- Too many things are put to consultants at a fairly expensive cost and then another study is done and later abandoned.
- All below are nice if we can afford them, but they should be after essential services like roads, police, fire, schools, etc. Luckily, I personally do not foresee a need for the services and programs you suggest. However, I am concerned with the attitude of some that seniors are “entitled” and expect the town to provide programs, etc. I don’t feel that way at all and, given limited resources, I would much rather see time and money spent on the young and/or for problems which affect the whole community.
- I believe all discretionary funding should go to the schools and the next generation!! (We have no children in the schools) Seniors like us have had our run. The country depends on nurturing the new generation.
- We do not need a \$3 million drop-in center for 50 people.
- Giving rides to the hairdresser should be paid for by users. Proposed Senior Center too expensive – town can’t afford it.

- Belmont should buy and improve the present senior center. The money required to build a new center could be better used elsewhere, including keeping taxes down.
- Concerns about Belmont's financial decision which overspends to restore old buildings rather than ensuring education for the young and better services for the citizens of Belmont.
- My concerns are the Board of Selectmen's unusual desire to spend, spend, spend! Their lists of priorities are lengthy and often frivolous, we need our streets repaired and we don't need two new firehouses, lighted football fields and town offices repaired at one time!
- Need to reinforce the "social contract" and get town to support programs needed by school children, adults (library and pool) and seniors - especially those with clear needs either personal/emotional/physical/financial. WE CAN DO BETTER. HOW TO ENERGIZE AND TO DEFEAT PERSONAL GREED and look for EMPATHY?
- Towns should not provide seniors with anything extra. That's the states job.
- The need for the town to balance available revenue fairly across the different "top" priorities of the town.
- The highest priorities for town budget should be the schools and other town infrastructure (roads, parks) and services (police, fire). The problem with this survey is that it doesn't give any indication of what the costs/trade-offs would be.
- Think Belmont does not need a new senior center. Present center with renovations (kitchen, elevator, etc.) is perfectly adequate and affordable for Belmont.
- I have never been to the Senior Center as I believe it should be in town-owned property, like in the main library downstairs, Electric Co. building, high school, or a place that donates space. It is ridiculous, the rent they pay out to a place that is tax free and should be giving community help – that outrageous rent for what seniors have could be spent on refreshments (dinners, lunch) and activities for them.
- I think a minority of the seniors are demanding too much. Money spent on seniors should be cut back and spent on the youth.
- It is important to address the critical needs of seniors – providing a drop-in center is not a critical need.
- As a presently healthy "senior," I don't believe the town should pay for more senior services – education and libraries are far more important. Belmont already provides a great deal – perhaps greater outreach from existing organizations and services could be encouraged. I personally probably would not expect the town to provide these except on an income-considered basis. But listing of such services would be useful to all in town.
- Should ask question about young families and willingness to pay for services for youth and education. The town should not be run by the elderly or it will wither and die.
- I think we have very inadequate Selectmen running our town. Our town is becoming very downgraded -- it is not the classy town it once was.

- Do not need new senior center or library - Belmont is too small a town to make it cost effective.
- Isn't it amazing how we lived all these years without a Senior Center? How about muzzles for all the cry babies that want something for nothing? Tell them to move to Miami Beach.
- 1. Why the town of Belmont would proceed with spending 6 or 7 million dollars to build a fancy senior center without actually finding out (doing an actual realistic survey – statistical) how many seniors want, or are interested enough in, to commit to using it, when there are so many other priority items? 2. Find out how many seniors would rather have a tax (or pass-through rent) reduction instead of having a new fancy senior center. 3. It would appear that building fancy buildings for the town, instead of better management of resources, is a means of political aggrandizement for some members of our political class.
- I don't understand the logic of providing special activities for seniors. Even as a liberal, I don't see why the town should subsidize things like movies or concerts for seniors – if it does. If there are subsidies, why should these activities be age segregated? Subsidizing basic services like meals-on-wheels to frail elders, on the other hand, makes sense to me. Runaway town spending, especially schools; lack of town (selectmen and Town Meeting) on controlling expenses and maintenance of town fabric; roads and lack of street cleaning; the rink is a disgrace. Too many people expect government to provide all needs (USSR).
- For town fathers to exercise some fiscal responsibility, to put \$2.2 million into a football field in light of more pressing needs is ludicrous.
- Belmont seniors can be divided into two groups: those of the young old and the old old. Their needs are different. Belmont needs to set priorities. First the town should help those most in need. Then the town should provide a supportive network for the rest. There are people of limited means and people of great affluence – who do you want to help, and in what ways?

Town not Interested in Seniors

- Town pays too much attention to school-age children and not seniors. The new Senior Center should be in better location.
- Town is no longer concerned about long-term residents. Taxes keep going up, our money is being spent for more consultants. Town has changed since we moved here and our children have grown up. New people move in, change things, then leave us with what they have done. Most of us seniors have spent many years volunteering and working for the town, only to be forgotten now.
- I think Belmont has not taken care of it's seniors. Other towns have done much more. Too much emphasis is placed on schools and not enough on the seniors who have supported Belmont for many years. Many people come here for the school system, and once the children are grown they sell their homes and do not contribute anything to the town.
- Senior trips should have stayed with the Recreation Dept. to run -- they did a perfect job for senior trips. Town officials do not care what happens to seniors.

Real Estate Taxes and Other Costs

- More bucks for seniors for taxes in this town.
- The constant rise in rents.
- Tax burden on proposed debt exclusions that will impact seniors on fixed incomes with little potential for earning more revenue.
- Please get the town finances under control, then try this wish list on us. With the taxes always going up, your 21 percent will go to zero.
- State tax assistance – only Federal 1040 at present.
- Increased living costs, but fixed or decreasing income.
- I think seniors should get a discount on taxes and cable for all seniors.
- Lower real estate taxes would help everyone!
- Percentage off real estate taxes for over 65.
- Level off senior taxes. There are too many increases and overrides. My taxes have gone up every year. I cannot raise money on my pension. When are seniors going to get a break?
- The constant heavy increase in real estate taxes, especially for older citizens.
- My property taxes are devastating as are the water and sewer costs, for a senior citizen.
- How about 100 percent tax relief for all seniors? Or a six-month-long all-expense-paid grand tour of Europe for all over 65? How about classes in fiscal responsibility for town officials (and people like LWV) so the annual tax increases don't force me to move out of Belmont. Have you thought of changing your organization's name to the League of Socialist Women Voters? (in the interests of truth in packaging) The increased taxes required to pay for all your proposed programs and activities won't help my level of concern [over costs – in qu.22] one bit.
- None, since further community services, especially for our age group, mean more taxes! Excessive property taxes for a single-person household (elderly).
- Consider abatement of a portion of the real estate taxes for seniors on property that has been in the family for generations.
- Other towns/cities have senior discount on electric bills, water bills (East Boston), real estate taxes – Belmont has nothing! Worked for Pol. 25 years. Company went bankrupt: terminated our medical insurance!
- The tax increases every year, and conditions of the roads.
- My wife and I both employed full-time. Our long-term concerns are listed under Qu. 22.
- The future.
- The rising real estate taxes!
- Too many local committees want to overdevelop our town and spend too much tax money – jacking up the cost of living for all retirees.
- Reduce real estate taxes. Town tax reduction on real estate. Program to lower the real estate taxes, so senior citizens can keep their homes.
- Lower taxes. Stop spending. Stop chaos on decisions for Upland franchise, etc.
- Taxes on house are too high. I am a widow for 31 years.
- Too much emphasis in Belmont on expensive projects that are mandated by consultants and ad hoc committees. I would prefer open more democratic form of

local government (versus town meeting representatives who rarely speak for us at Town Meeting.) Less dollars is more conducive to quiet seniority.

- The overrides on our taxes; the school budget, especially sports.
- At the moment I can take care of my own affairs, but with the division of labor in our marriage, I may have difficulties with financial responsibilities if and /or when my husband dies before me.
- Senior citizens should be given a discount for their real estate taxes after living all their lives in Belmont plus their parents before them. Belmont does not do enough for the senior citizens.
- Sewage and water costs. Seniors should get a discount from Comcast.
- Town should live within its means. Not ask for overrides.
- A tax break on real estate taxes should be given. We've supported the schools for almost 35 years!
- Providing seniors a discount on their real estate taxes.
- TAXES!!! If you ask us to voice our opinions, then for God's sake, listen.
- Rebate on real estate taxes and Comcast TV service bills for seniors 65 and over.
- The largest expense all residents have is taxes, especially real estate taxes, which is eaten up in large part by the school system. All of the items on the "wants" list in questions 1 and 3 have to be paid for by someone. Those of us who are single or no longer have kids in the school system should have our tax burden proportionately reduced. Then those seniors who now need assistance could comfortably pay for their own needs.
- Taxes, heating, medications, and doctors.
- Most concerning is constant hike in taxes and water/sewer costs.
- Taxes are much too high with no benefit to those with no children in the school system!!
- No more overrides. I have paid enough.
- My income is fixed. Taxes – town taxes and overrides continue to increase exponentially. Enough already. Do the library and schools need bloated administrations?
- Increasingly, we have become a two-tiered society and seniors are perhaps equally separate in their resources. We need to do as much as we can to support those who fall behind.
- The economy and high rents in Belmont.
- Larger discount (?) for fuel assistance.
- I feel that seniors should get relief from school tax portion of real estate taxes.
- Help for seniors.
- Seniors have paid bills for years from playgrounds up to adult sport at night. Now it's our turn.
- Rents are out of reach - maybe establish some rent control.
- Real estate tax breaks for long time residents who have paid taxes for 25 or more years.
- Yes – cutting expenses to the town so that our taxes are not increased – we do not need to have the town provide programs or activities – we are busy with our own activities as long as the town does not take our money for taxes.

- I would like to see a cap on real estate taxes. They will be taking over my pension. Perhaps something could be done for elders, with certain income limitation.
- Taxes in Belmont much too high for seniors. Council on Aging and Selectmen not done a good job.
- Controlling taxes.
- I think people over 65 -- home owners -- should pay less property taxes since we have paid for the schools for 60 years. I feel people who use the schools should pay more than those who don't.
- Seniors like myself who live on their monthly S.S. checks should be at least exempt from annual surcharges on our property taxes. The people that are voting for it have households of \$80,000.00 or more with a house full of kids going to local schools. (I would too.)
- I'm concerned about increases every year in the real estate and water bills. Complaining to town employees gets a response: if you can't afford Belmont, sell your house and move -- not the response you give to life-time resident whose family has paid taxes since 1928. We helped to build this town!!! Not the response to give to any Belmont resident. Sewer charge on water bill is ridiculous -- almost 3 times water charge. Why? How long do we pay to clean the harbor?
- Allowances on real estate taxes for veterans.
- The snails pace that Belmont moves in making decisions e.g., McLean housing, Sr. housing. Rapid increases in R.E. taxes.
- Taxes are causing wonderful people to worry, worry about how they can live and stay alive and healthy. Get smart(!) Town Officials.
- Concerned with high taxes because the budget is out of control.
- While I would like to see services made available to seniors who have supported the town through property taxes, I wouldn't want to see taxes go through the roof to support services. A dilemma.
- Seniors over 75 years old should have real estate taxes relief.
- The increase in real estate taxes and water/sewer. Proposition 2 1/2 is a joke.
- Rising real estate taxes.
- Real estate taxes too high for seniors.
- Tax overrides.
- If all these issues were taken care of, our taxes would be through the roof. When you can't afford a place, you move. Never mind this "Womb to Tomb" mentality. Pay your own way or rot [?] some place down south.
- When are the real estate taxes going to stop increasing? Our taxes are the concern of all the elderly that own homes. We have paid for a new school and now we have to pay for the transients that live here three or four years and leave us holding the bag. My wife has lived here all her life and is a Belmont graduate. I would move in a minute and let you worry about the taxes.
- First and foremost, taxes must be kept at a reasonable level so that it is possible to continue to live in Belmont. If one cannot afford to live here, a more elaborate Senior Center and a greater variety of services offered are of no significance.
- RE tax reduction for every senior, based on Belmont not providing such programs as above (with pass through provision for renters). One could then

- continue to afford living here, and maybe even continue to afford such activities, on our own, as we have earlier in our lives.
- Very high real estate taxes. It should be prorated by income, number of children in school, and length of residency in Belmont. Very unfair to seniors; they shouldn't be forced out of their homes because of unreasonable taxes. Because of growing number of 1 income families with cleaning services, expensive cars, etc, I and many of my older peers feel they should pay for extra programs, more teachers and etc. I am sick and tired, constantly hearing about Belmont schools agenda. I paid my share in 34 years in Belmont. How about giving break to seniors? For example, Winchester residents pay half of our real estate tax, and they have excellent school system, many restaurants, programs for elderly, and real estate tax value is at least same, or lower, than Belmont. How is it possible?
 - No expenditure for fire stations, senior center, library. Maybe some expenditures for school buildings? Reduce taxes.
 - Put a stop to tax increases and cut government expansion.
 - Real estate tax relief. Need help with sky high "water bills." Seniors should have discount on "electric bills."
 - Reduction in water and electric bills for seniors. No real estate increase for seniors.
 - Most seniors are very concerned about the runaway real estate assessment, taxes, sewer charges, customer service charges. All these increases have gotten out of control. What can be done, if anything?
 - Lack of town leaders who will promote commercial business to alleviate escalating taxes.
 - Let's not make our taxes rise. Charge for all programs.
 - Very concerned about the consistent raising of taxes.
 - Lower taxes. Use taxes like a business, no more special committees.
 - Very concerned about escalating property taxes. I am unemployed – income down, taxes up, up.
 - High water bills, electric bill, Cable bill.
 - I am concerned that Belmont has become a high-tax town, whereas in the past I considered it to be a low-tax town, which I liked very much.
 - Need to develop local political lobby group to actively work to reduce taxes which affect seniors disproportionately to services received.
 - I am able to pay my bills but costs are constantly increasing, especially real estate taxes, home heating, and water bills. This is very concerning for everyone.
 - Never mind the social programs. I can take care of my own entertainment. Just keep the real estate taxes down!
 - Belmont property taxes too high – terrible roads considering the property taxes, plus excise taxes, etc., we pay.

Taxes Will Drive Seniors out of Town

- Constant increase in house taxes. Feel as if I will have to move because of my house taxes – after 21 years.
- My foremost concern is that in retirement I continue to live in Belmont. Town taxes are a factor in determining whether or not that is possible.
- I am concerned because when I retire I do not think I can afford to live in home. Belmont needs senior affordable housing!
- I am concerned that once I stop working, we will not be able to afford to live in town. We do not think the town is senior friendly. Town services to elderly do not seem proportionate to the senior population. We have been long-time supporters of the schools, but feel that we are being squeezed out due to school budget. Would like to see more business (not banks) in town and add to commercial base of the town. We need tax relief!
- Still recovering from broken leg (fall on black ice in Winter '03.) Not concerned about being able to pay [bills] in near term, but the obscene escalation of reassessments (35% on my modest house in 2 years with no renovations/significant repairs in that time) leaves me very concerned about what tax increases will do to my retirement savings in coming years when I am fully retired – not long from now. Do not wish to give up my house and garden.
- My concern is the real estate taxes. Senior citizens who have lived all their lives in this town are being forced out because of real estate taxes.
- The taxes are extremely high. If you want to do something, stop the constant overrides.
- Increasing taxes will force sale of single home.
- Tax relief. The one grumble I have most often is: why are taxes so high and how can I afford to live here?
- As I approach older age, I'm more concerned with being able to stay in my home than losing many activities for seniors. I would rather the money be used to keep my taxes at an affordable rate, so that I wouldn't be forced to sell and move out of town. I am not overly concerned right now, but when I am retired in a few years, I will see things from a different perspective.
- I am currently caring for a senior friend with cancer. Health concerns are the biggest problem of getting older, next is financial concerns. Keeping your home due to rising taxes is very difficult and sad for seniors. We are all better off in our own homes with help as needed.
- Escalating real estate taxes for senior citizens who wish to remain in town.
- I find the escalating property taxes to be of great concern. There appears to be a lack of a sensible spending plan and of truly prioritizing. Many seniors who have lived here most or all of their lives will be forced to leave the town they have loved.
- My main concern involves housing. Some of us cannot qualify for senior housing but as retired middle class professionals are finding housing costs of remaining in Belmont increasingly challenging. I like Belmont - it's been my home for 35 yrs. I would not like to move but Belmont rents are becoming or are ridiculous.
- Taxes in Belmont have increased. I do not know if I'll be able to stay in Belmont.

- Being able to continue to live in Belmont with increasing costs, also dealing with potential cuts or changes in services such as trash collection, i.e., limited income and increasing costs in every area from taxes to medical to basic needs such as food and fuel.
- I would like to live out my years in Belmont.
- Belmont health and social services no longer interest me. Because of high real estate taxes I am forced to leave Belmont (Retired, fixed income).
- Better than I in 4 citizens are senior, yet the only focus is on a Senior Center. Everyone I talk to is very concerned about the real estate tax burden and being forced to leave Belmont because of it.
- Real estate taxes. They are getting so high that I may have to sell my house, which has been in my family for over 80 years.
- Taxes are getting so high that many seniors will not be able to afford their homes anymore.
- Continuing affordability of Belmont; being able to stay in the home where we live as long as we wish.
- Concerned that some day property taxes will force many seniors out of homes.
- Very high cost of being financially able to remain a home owner. Anyone paying real estate tax for more than 40 years should get an abatement, otherwise you will force us all to leave.
- Citizens of Belmont can't undertake the liberal spending of fire houses, libraries, new senior center. More are selling and being forced to move. Lets take (care) of the seniors who built this town to what it is by not forcing them to sell and move. Cut Spending.
- If taxes increase much, we will be forced to move.
- With taxes going higher and higher the elderly are being forced to move out of town.
- All services will be worthless to me if I am forced from my Belmont home because of very high real estate taxes.

Affordable Housing for Seniors

- That senior housing is available for Belmont residents who need it.
- More affordable housing for the elderly.
- The town should offer some moderate housing or condos so seniors can downsize yet remain in the town that means so much to them.
- Housing for elderly seniors.
- Affordable condo and/or assisted living.
- Suitable housing for seniors who are unable to, or don't wish to, continue maintaining housing and property longer than they need.
- Affordable senior housing.
- Cemetery plots and apartments for the elderly.
- Giving variances to seniors who want to rent an in-law apt. in a single-family neighborhood.
- Affordable housing.
- More affordable housing for seniors.

