



## Bayview Community Council News

### Calling All Cell Phones *By Ali Spahn*

Technology is constantly upgrading and that makes understanding which cellular service to select or phone to buy mind-boggling. Since the Verizon cell tower went live, the Bayview Community Council was curious to find out how our resident's services have changed. A survey was conducted and 115 residents responded. The results showed a wide variety of outcomes, both positive and negative, for cellular coverage on different cellular carriers.

We contacted Heidi Flato, Verizon representative to get the scoop. She provided the following information: The tower is owned by the InSite Wireless Group. Verizon installed 4G LTE technology, not 3G. 5G phones will roam on the 4G sites. Spectrum partners with Verizon, therefore Spectrum phones will work with the tower. AT&T cannot roam on Verizon's network. At this time, there are no plans to upgrade to 5G.

According to an AT&T cell phone representative, "Any phone you buy today will have 5G. 5G increases network capacity a thousand times because now instead of measuring in megabits the system measures in gigabits which is much faster. Keep in mind, eventually, 3G users will need to upgrade to 4G or 5G."

#### COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S SURVEY RESULTS

Out of the 115 surveys received, only 8 residents stated they did not own a Smart phone. Since the cell tower went active, 61 responders stated their service was better versus 54 stating their service was not better. So, that means over half the responders are happy. That is an improvement.

**Verizon Users In Town (29):** Dropped Calls 19%  
Weak Signal 38% Spotty Coverage 27%  
No Coverage 12% Garbled 4%  
Better in town since tower went active with Verizon?  
21 (YES) 8 (NO)

**Spectrum Users in Town (7):** Dropped Calls 16%  
Weak Signal 67% Spotty Coverage 17%  
No Coverage 0% Garbled 0%  
Better in town since tower went active with Verizon?  
1 (YES) 6 (NO)

Since Spectrum is actually owned by Verizon and the survey found that coverage was basically the same as shown in the graphs, residents who use their phones for only calling and texting may want to look into Spectrum's "By the Gig Data Plan" versus Verizon's plans which are more expensive.

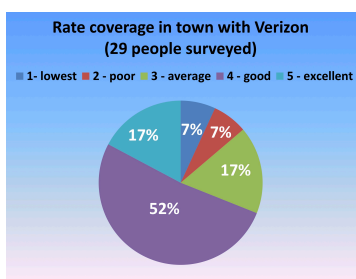
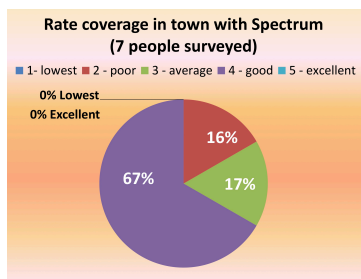
According to <https://www.spectrum.com/mobile>, "...you'll share cellular data across all of your By the Gig lines (your cell phones on the plan). You'll be charged \$14 up front each month for each line of service and get 1 GB per line of shareable cellular data to use among all By the Gig lines on the same account. If all of the By the Gig lines on the account collectively use more than the 1 GB per-line cellular data allocation in a month, you'll pay an additional \$14 per shareable GB on your next bill, whether you use the entire gigabyte or not." That's a pretty good rate.

**Verizon/Spectrum users before the slide (21):** Dropped Calls 27% Weak Signal 23% Spotty Coverage 31%  
No Coverage 15% Garbled 4%  
Better in town since tower went active with Verizon?  
10 (YES) 11 (NO). One Spectrum user stated cell service is excellent while the other Spectrum user claimed the service was average. Both claimed spotty coverage.

**Verizon users after the slide (17):** According to the 17 residents, the service was rated good to poor (29% good/lowest; 24% average; 18% poor) with dropped calls, spotty coverage and weak signals listed as the problem areas. Response to the question: Is the service better since the tower went active? It was split 56% (No) and 44% (Yes).

One resident asked, "What happened to the booster that was supposed to be installed by the water tower in Cape Horn Estates?" There was never a plan for Verizon to install a booster at that location. Heidi said, "You can get a booster (a large antenna) or repeater on the side of your house which captures the signal however there's no guarantee that it will work. The benefit of using a booster/repeater depends on a number of factors that are specific to the customer's location." Go to: <https://www.ubersignal.com/cell-phone-signal-booster-guide> for more information.

**AT&T users in all areas (24):** According to the 24 survey responders, there is absolutely no coverage which confirms what Heidi stated earlier. Only 1 person would switch to Verizon, everyone has a smart phone except 1 person and their service has not changed since the tower went live. It's surprising that only one person would switch to Verizon even if they would have better service. An AT&T representative stated, "The old flip phones (1G or 2G) will not work on the current system. Newer flip phones are 3G or 4G, however, eventually 3G's will get grandfathered-out so as not use up all the system resources. (CONTINUED)



## (Continued from front page)

Those customers will need to upgrade to a 4G or 5G smart phone. Currently, AT&T does not have any plans to install a cell site for Bayview.”

### **Verizon & Straight Talk users in Float Homes (10):**

These folks are very happy since the tower went live with 63% excellent and 37% good service.

The only service problems mentioned were dropped calls and a weak signal.

**Tracfone (2):** When you sign up for Tracfone, you'll get service on one of the major networks, but not all of them. It's based on your device and location. The 2 residents stated they basically have no coverage.

**Verizon/T-Mobile users on Perimeter Rd. (5):** Dropped Calls 15% Weak Signal 43% Spotty Coverage 14% No Coverage 14% Garbled 14%  
Is service better in town since tower went active with Verizon? 2 (Yes) 2 (No)

Two Verizon users stated coverage was 33% excellent and 33% good and 2 users stated 34% poor. The one T-Mobile user stating they had no or spotty coverage including a weak signal and would switch to Verizon.

According to the survey results, Spectrum and Verizon seem to be the winners regarding cell coverage and reliability for users in the Bayview area. To find the best service and plan that would fit your specific needs, do your homework. For your convenience, here is a link to top cell phone plans for seniors in 2020: [www.theseniorlist.com](http://www.theseniorlist.com)

## Bayview Community Council Staying Strong 2020!

- “We Miss You Parade” w/tasty treats
- Revived “I Love Bayview” Button
- Highway 54 Litter Clean Up
- Awarded \$500 College Scholarship
- Initiated Re-Opening East Gate
- Sponsored Community Food Drive
- Created Cell Tower Phone Survey
- Selected 2020 Communitarian
- Sponsored Community Wide Yard Sale
- Updated the Council’s Phone Directory
- Sponsored Pickle Ball

Look for More Great Ideas in 2021!



WE WISH ALL A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Shore Lines’ featuring another home based business.

## Bayview’s Super Sleuth

There is no stone left unturned and no place to hide. John Does beware. A record the envy of Sherlock Holmes, **Pat Pfremer** runs a premier lost and found.

Pat’s full time business, **Specialized Research and Investigations, LLC**, is similar to a private investigator, except she doesn’t do surveillance or go dumpster diving. According to Pat, “I do not engage in what I call ‘brawny stuff’. My work is more contemplative. I spend a lot of time online: sorting through newspaper archives, court files, recorded documents, genealogy records, and Twitter feeds. If it is out there, I will find it. When I’m not working, I am thinking about work. I get my best ideas just before I fall asleep.”

Pat’s client base is worldwide and most people have no idea where she is located. Pat works with attorneys, government agencies, private investigators, and private individuals. Ninety-five percent of her work is online.

Pat and her husband have been coming to North Idaho for the past 20 summers. “We were looking for a summer get-away place and fell in love with float houses. Buying one was the best decision we ever made,” says Pat.

Pat will tell you that twenty percent of what she does involves finding people. “Some are indeed lost, many do not want to be found. My favorite task is locating birth parents for adoptees. I use DNA and it’s absolutely fool-proof. It’s very challenging work and this particular area, I am a control freak.”

“I do not put people ‘together’ unless there is complete agreement on both sides to go forward. I do not divulge anyone’s secrets, I counsel my clients on how the process will proceed or not. I have many happy clients, the DNA work is very fulfilling,” says Pat.

Projects can be difficult when a person does not want to be located, but Pat’s success rate is excellent. “I’d say over 99%. I can think of 4 people in the last 15 years that eluded me, the police couldn’t find them either. And I find people the police have not found.”

Referring to a particular skill set Pat says, “I think some people just have an innate ability to be successful in this field. It is not something you get out of a book or in a classroom setting. The best investigators think outside the box, and they do not discount intuition.”

To contact **Specialized Research and Investigations, LLC**, email:

forpat@gmail.com, or call: (831) 459-0860. Please note that you heard about her through the Shore Lines.

Did I mention that Pat LOVES her work?



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