



Belmont

MASSACHUSETTS

The Town of Homes

From the Office of The Town Administrator

Belmont Bulletin

March 2023



March Select Board Meetings

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

Important Dates:

April 4, 2023:
Election Day

Contact the Town Administrator's Office

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Belmont, MA 02478

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Spring is on the horizon! As we march forward into March, there is a lot happening in Town.

As you begin to thaw from the chilly winter, please take a few moments to check out some of the highlights of what has happened in Town over the course of the past month and what is to come!

Keep Up with the Select Board

Use the links below to watch the most recent Select Board Meetings on Belmont Media's Website.

- [February 6, 2023](#)
- [February 9, 2023](#)
- [February 27, 2023](#)

Find archived Select Board Minutes [here](#).



Select Board Initiatives:

FY2024 Budget Update

On Friday, February 3rd, both the Town and School preliminary FY2024 budgets were released. An electronic copy of the FY2024 budget and Budget Summit presentation materials are available on the [Town Budget Information](#) page of the Town Website.

Select Board Approves a New Sign for the Veterans Memorial Park

At the February 27th meeting of the Select Board, The Town Administrator provided an update on the pending sign installation for the new sign at the entrance to the Veterans Memorial Park. The Park was dedicated on November 2, 2019, and the Park was approved in name at the April 12, 2021 meeting of the Select Board.

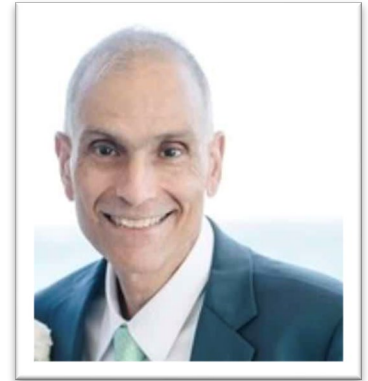
Annual Town Meeting

Town Meeting Members should reserve the following dates for **Annual Town Meeting:** **May 1, 3, 8, 10, 31 and June 5, 7, 12.**



Michael Santoro

**Belmont Department of
Public Works Assistant
Director I Highway Division
Manager**



Town Administrator Patrice Garvin would like to recognize Belmont Department of Public Works Assistant Director / Highway Division Manager Michael Santoro, who is a third-generation town employee, for his decades of dedication and service to the Town of Belmont.

Santoro, a Belmont native, has been an employee for the Town of Belmont for 46 years serving in various capacities, including 42 years as a full-time employee and four years as a seasonal worker.

Santoro's grandfather, Bastiano Santoro served as a Belmont town employee for 25 years, working for the highway division. Santoro's father, Dominic Santoro followed a similar career path, serving as a Belmont town employee for 32 years, working for the highway division before becoming a Belmont firefighter.

Santoro currently serves as the Belmont Department of Public Works (DPW) Assistant Director where he provides administrative services to 15 major Public Works programs. In his role, he supports work on policy, planning, administration, budget, capital equipment and projects, contracts, personnel, customer service, and the allocation and coordination of resources.

Additionally, Santoro currently serves as the DPWs Highway Division Manager where he oversees day-to-day operations, including maintenance of streets, sewers, stormwater drains and vehicles.

"Much of the work our DPW does for our residents is a credit to Michael's longstanding commitment to the Town of Belmont and ensuring that work gets done," said Town Administrator Garvin. "Michael has been a huge asset for a long time, and we're thankful for his service to the community."

Santoro began working for the Town of Belmont in 1977, serving as a seasonal employee with the highway department while attending Belmont High School. After graduating, Santoro began working for the Town of Belmont full-time, serving in various capacities including laborer, truck driver, special heavy equipment operator, working foreman and Assistant Highway Superintendent before being appointed to his current roles of Assistant DPW Director and Highway Division Manager in 2004.

Throughout his career, he has played a key role in developing the Public Works operation in Belmont and assisted in the reorganization of both the Belmont Facilities Department and the Belmont Recreation Department.

Santoro is a member of the Norfolk, Bristol, Middlesex Highway Association and a Lifetime Member of the American Public Works Association.

"I have been extremely fortunate to work for the Town of Belmont for the past 46 years," Santoro said. "My accomplishments have been made possible with the unwavering support from the community and the hardworking and dedicated staff members I work with every day."

Santoro and his wife, Susan have been married for 38 years. They are the proud parents of four children and the proud grandparents of two children.

Community Updates:

Belmont Fire Department

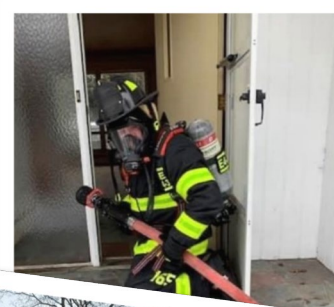
The record cold weather at the beginning of February resulted in a dramatic spike in incident activity for the Belmont Fire Department. In a 48-hour period between February 4th and 5th the fire department responded to 60 calls for service, including a two-alarm fire in an occupied home. Fortunately, no residents or firefighters were injured.

Another fire in an occupied home occurred on February 15th on Belmont Street. A large amount of fire was visible on arrival, and two alarms were transmitted to bring the blaze under control. With the assistance of our mutual aid partners this fire was also controlled and extinguished without injuries.

Also, in the month of February the fire department participated on the Lunar New Year Festival in Belmont Center. As a gesture of good luck Chief DeStefano was presented with a case of oranges and fortune cookies for the members of the department.

On February 13th a new recruit firefighter was hired to begin training. Joseph Brock will undergo four weeks of training in Belmont and then attend the Quincy Fire Department Training Academy. Working with our MetroFire partner we are able to efficiently train Recruit Brock and place him on a shift as quickly as possible. We also have a recruit currently enrolled in the Boston Fire Department Academy with the same purpose in mind.

While both recruits were engaged in the “in-house” portion of their training, we had the opportunity to gain valuable experience using a house slated for demolition. This opportunity allowed for practice of hose-line operations as well as search and rescue and breaching techniques.



Belmont Recreation Department

There are always fun activities happening at the Belmont Recreation Department! Check out the [Spring Brochure on the Recreation Department's Website](#) to learn more what's happening this season. More programs will be added throughout the Spring, so keep checking the [Recreation Department's website](#) for updates. See some highlights below!

Spring Registration Dates:

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

RESIDENTS: FEBRUARY 28

NON - RESIDENTS: MARCH 14

CAMP REGISTRATION

RESIDENTS: MARCH 7

NON - RESIDENTS: MARCH 21

UNDERWOOD POOL REGISTRATION

SUPER SALE: MARCH 14

GENERAL SALE: APRIL 15

Additionally, The Skip Viglirolo Skating Rink will close for the Season on March 18th (weather pending). We will be hosting an end of season Ice Melter event on that day.

Lastly, The Higginbottom Pool will have expanded public swim hours beginning on March 8th with the conclusion of the swim team season. [Click here for hours.](#)



Council on Aging

The Beech Street Center is buzzing with activity this March! Check out some highlighted events and announcements below. Please visit the [Beech Street Center's website](#) for more information and a complete list of events.

Special Announcement: The Belmont Council on Aging is looking to launch a lifelong learning program in September 2023 to provide classroom learning opportunities for its senior community. We need teachers who can lead classes about any academic subject (note: not “how-to” courses). Prior teaching experience is valuable but not necessary—a tuition-funded stipend is provided to teachers. Please get in touch with Pierce Ellinwood at 617-993-2977 or pellinwood@belmont-ma.gov to discuss!



Event Highlights:

How to Modify and Update Your Home to Age in Place

Friday, April 7th, from 1-2:30 pm

A representative from AARP and members of Belmont's Age-Friendly Action Committee will review the Belmont Home Fit Guide and the AARP HomeFit Guide. These are designed to help you understand how to make your home safer, more comfortable, and a better “fit” for its residents- of every age. In collaboration with the Office of Community Development and AARP, the Belmont Age Friendly Action Committee recently developed a guide to assist Belmont homeowners who want to modify or update their homes to adapt to the changing needs of older residents. This guide will be available in April at the Beech Street Center, Town Hall, Library, and other locations around town. Learn more and get a free guide Friday, April 7th, from 1-2:30 at the Beech Street Center.

8 Weeks in Ukraine: Life in Lviv During the War

Tuesday, March 14 at 1:15 p.m. Cost: Free

In October and November of 2022, Tania Vitvitsky spent eight weeks in the city of Lviv volunteering at the Ukrainian Education Platform (UEP), a Ukrainian nonprofit assisting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). According to the International Office for Migration (IOM), as of December 5, 2022, there are 5,914,000 IDPs in Ukraine due to the Russian Invasion. Listen to Tania as she shares her experiences and explains how Lviv has managed to avoid large-scale destruction while dealing with frequent, sometimes daily, power blackouts and often a lack of water. Learn how the residents manage to keep going while Russian missiles and Iranian drones cut power and water. Call 617-993-2970 or find us on MyRec to register.

Butterfly Social: Friend Matchmaking Service with Anna Roglieri

Friday, March 31 at 1:15 p.m. Cost: Free

Butterfly Social is a new friend matchmaking/friend introduction service that specializes in helping seniors and is currently free to seniors. Be introduced to new friends and improve your mental and physical health through socializing. Butterfly Social is a personalized, one-on-one friend introduction service run by a local psychiatric nurse practitioner who wants to help you foster wellness through socialization.

Meet Anna, learn about the service, and start making new friends! To learn more, visit ButterflySocial.net or call 857-728-1644. Call 617-993-2970 or find us on MyRec to register.

Interested in a Weekend Trip to The Embrace? Cost: \$8

The Beech Street Center is looking to coordinate a trip to view Hank Willis Thomas' Boston Common commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King. The trip, pending interest, would run on a Saturday in late April and include a lunch stop in downtown Boston. The cost would be \$8 plus the cost of your meal. Limit 13 people; call Pierce at 617-993-2977 to reserve your spot on the bus.

Town Clerk



Deadline to License Dogs and Cats: March 15th

All Belmont cats and dogs are to be licensed by March 15th. Renewals may be done [online](#), by mail, Town Clerk drop box or in the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall. First-time pets may be licensed by mail, Town Clerk drop box or in the Town Clerk's Office. Applications were mailed to every household with the census form.

Local Election

Belmont's Annual Town Election will be held on **Tuesday, April 4, 2023**; precinct polls will be open 7am-8pm. **Deadline to be registered to vote** for Belmont's local election is **March 24, 2023 5pm** in person or register online at www.VoteInMa.com. *The Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall will be open until 5:00pm March 24th to accept voter registrations.* **Vote By Mail Application** forms were recently included with Belmont Light bills. Deadline to apply for an April ballot is **4:00pm on March 28, 2023**. There is no Early Voting in Person available for the April election.

To review a draft of the ballot, including names of candidates, [Click here](#). Additionally, there will be two (2) ballot questions:

Question #1 Shall the Town of Belmont be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two-and-one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay for costs of designing, demolishing, construction, originally equipping, and furnishing the Belmont Rink and Sports Facility, located at 345 Concord Avenue in Belmont, and all costs incidental or related thereto?
Yes ___ No ___

Question #2 Shall the Town vote to have its elected Town Treasurer and Collector of Taxes become an appointed Town Treasurer and Collector of Taxes of the Town? Yes ___ No ___

The Town Clerk's Office is also excited to announce Belmont will begin using new vote election tabulators and electronic poll books this April! When voting in person, voters will notice an election worker using a laptop for check-in. You will be asked for your name and address. There is an option to provide a Massachusetts Driver's License that can be scanned, but no ID is required to vote in Massachusetts. Voters will also notice a difference in the vote tabulator (machine into which you feed a ballot). There will be a confirmation screen lets the voter know that the ballot is accepted.

Become an Election Worker

Our terrific election workers make democracy happen. The Town Clerk's Office is always looking for additional great people to work in precincts on Election Day; thorough training, half-day shifts, and minimum wage pay are offered. Registered voters who are interested, should complete & submit an application found [here](#) as soon as possible, as training classes will be held mid-March.

2023 Census

Annual Town Census forms were mailed to every household in mid-January. Please review, update, sign, and return the household form as soon as you can. This helps keep the list of residents and voters accurate; **all adults and children living in Belmont should be included.**

Annual Town Meeting Dates:

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