



Belmont
MASSACHUSETTS
The Town of Homes

From the Office of The Town Administrator

Belmont Bulletin

December Edition 2023



December

Select Board Meetings

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 Select Board Meeting,
 Budget Summit

Town Offices Closed:

December 25, 2023
 (honoring Christmas Day)

Contact the Town Administrator's Office

Address:
 455 Concord Ave.
 Belmont, MA 02478

Email:
[townadministrator@
 belmont-ma.gov](mailto:townadministrator@belmont-ma.gov)

Phone: 617-993-2610

Happy Holidays! This time of year is sure to be busy for all of us and happenings around Town haven't slowed down a bit. As early shoppers will begin the month wrapping presents, around Town Hall we have been busy wrapping up the good work of last month's Special Town Meeting and working hard on budget building for the next fiscal year.

So, take a break from all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and pour yourself a piping hot cocoa, tea or coffee and nestle up with this month's edition of the Town Administrator's Belmont Bulletin.

Select Board News and Initiatives:

Department Budget Hearings

Each year, the Select Board hears from departments on their budget requests. These requests were discussed in open meeting on Weds, November 15th and Friday, November 17th. In case you missed it, the meetings are available on the [Belmont Media website](#).

FY2025 Budget Summit III – December 20, 2023

The third budget summit for FY2025 will take place on **December 20th**. The main policy making boards and committees will attend – Select Board, School Committee, Warrant Committee and Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee, and will continue deliberating on the size, allocation and long-term plan for an override request. The Summit will be broadcast on [Belmont Media](#) and presentation materials will be posted on the [Town Budget Information](#) webpage.

The Belmont Lions Club Celebrates its 75th Anniversary

The Select Board proudly issued a proclamation in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Belmont Lions Club. The Proclamation was read at the beginning of the November 17, 2023 Select Board meeting which is available on the [Belmont Media website](#).

Keep Up with the Select Board



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

- [November 6, 2023](#)
- [November 8, 2023](#)
- [November 15, 2023](#)
- [November 17, 2023](#)

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



To view a digital version of this month's Bulletin, please scan the QR Code.

Select Board News and Initiatives Continued:

Nomination Papers Now Available for April 2, 2024 Annual Election

Those interested in running for office in April 2024 can visit the [Town Clerk page of the Town website](#) or visit the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall (455 Concord Avenue) to discover more about the nomination and election process. There is also more information later in this newsletter about the positions available!



Belmont DPW-Yard Waste Announcement:

The Yard Waste Program will end the week of December 5, 2023 and will resume the week of April 1, 2024.



Holiday Food Drive at Belmont Town Hall:

For the month of December until January 8, 2023, help those in need this holiday season by dropping off dry goods and pantry items at the Town of Belmont Human Resources Office (455 Concord Ave, 2nd floor). All donations will be distributed by the Belmont Food Pantry.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Flu and COVID Vaccine Clinics:

The Belmont Health Department is partnering with Osco Pharmacy to provide vaccines to Belmont residents this fall. Vaccines will be available for anyone ages 3 and up. Based on your eligibility, this clinic will have Flu (regular and high dose), COVID, Pneumonia, RSV, Shingles, and Tetanus vaccines available. Talk to your doctor if you have questions about your vaccine eligibility.



December's Vaccine Clinic will be held on: **Wednesday, December 6th from 10:00AM – 2:00PM at the Beth El Temple, 2 Concord Ave, Belmont**

Registration is required and can be completed online with a link on the Belmont Town website or by [clicking here](#).

MA Dept of Public Health - Community Health Equity Survey

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is committed to better serving communities that experience barriers to health. The Community Health Equity Survey was developed in collaboration with community members and partners across the state and reflects the priorities and experiences of Massachusetts residents. The information you share will help DPH and community partners determine how best to allocate funding, improve programming, and develop policies to address health inequities. This survey is intended for anyone over the age of 14 who lives in Massachusetts. DPH specifically seeks to hear from communities who have been impacted by health inequities.

How to take the survey: You can take the survey online with a computer, phone or tablet. It will take around 15-30 minutes to complete. You can choose to complete the survey in Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese (simplified or traditional), English, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Those who are deaf or hard of hearing can also take the survey in American Sign Language later this summer.

All survey responses are anonymous and cannot be traced back to you. Take the survey: mass.gov/healthsurvey.



What makes **Belmont** healthy & strong?
Your voice.

When you take the MA Community Health Equity Survey, you're sharing valuable experience that can help build a healthier community. The survey is available in 11 languages, easy to take, and anonymous.

Take the survey now at [Mass.gov/Healthsurvey](https://mass.gov/Healthsurvey)

This survey is part of the Community Health Equity Initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Scan to take survey

December 2023

Employee Spotlight

Kristin Daley

Lieutenant, Belmont Police Department

Each month, Town Administrator Patrice Garvin highlights a single employee whose hard work and dedication exemplifies what it means to be an employee for the Town of Belmont. In the Employee Spotlight series, we are able to shine a light on incredible employee achievements and provide an opportunity to introduce and recognize Belmont Town employees throughout the Belmont community.

In this month's Bulletin, Town Administrator Garvin would like to recognize Belmont Police Lieutenant, Kristin Daley who has worked for Belmont since 1998 and is now in her 25th year. In 2012, she was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and was the first female to hold that rank in the history of the Belmont Police Department. Over the years, Lt. Daley has continued to be a familiar and friendly face at the Belmont Police Department. She describes her role as one that strives to help people.

Lt. Daley's primary roles and responsibilities involve community services and staff development. This ranges from working with training facilities to enroll Belmont's officers in critical training programs to working with Belmont's most vulnerable – those with special needs and the elderly. Lt. Daley also acts as the staff liaison to Belmont's Age Friendly Action Committee.

Lt. Daley is very proud to serve in the police department for the Town where she grew up. From an early age her parents acted as examples when it came to displaying a selfless humility and willingness to serve as long time members of Kiwanis and the Local VFW. Lt. Daley credits her parents as her inspiration for choosing a career in public service.

Each and every day brings new challenges and Lt. Daley admits that it is not always easy, but she reminds herself that her calling is to "help people." Sometimes, she may find herself in situations where someone may need help but not even know it. The challenge of helping someone to recognize their need for help is a tall task that Lt. Daley says takes patience, commitment and understanding.



Even more than these qualities, Lt. Daley says it is "a willingness to work together and bring people together in a joint effort that breeds success and can really make a difference in helping someone." During her tenure at the Police Department, Lt. Daley says it's the little victories that motivate her. The little differences she is able to make in people's lives can add up to make a big difference in the community.

It is common for those facing various issues to feel overwhelmed. Lt. Daley takes pride in that her work can help combat that feeling. Her role allows her to be someone to turn to and it is important that she prepares resources to provide assistance directly or point someone in need in the right direction. Lt. Daley also recognizes the importance of education in prevention of unfortunate situations like fraud and identity theft. Lt. Daley has given presentations on the types and signs of fraud and identity theft to audiences at the Beech Street Center.

Lt. Daley is proud of where the Police Department is regarding the elderly and those with special needs. "Our officers really care for the community, we see it in the little things and going the extra mile, if we stay the course Belmont will continue to be a safe and pleasant place to be."

Outside of her role at the Police Department, Lt. Daley has been involved with the Special Olympics for the past 22 years coaching floor hockey and soccer. She also enjoys exercise and traveling both nationally and internationally. She also spends a good amount of time at Boy Scout events with her son, of whom she is very proud.

Community Updates:

Belmont Fire Department

During the month of November, the Belmont Fire department responded to over 340 incidents, including emergency medical calls, automobile crashes requiring victim extrication using the “Jaws of Life,” and structure fires. We also assisted our mutual aid partners in Winchester at a 3rd alarm fire.

Our members also showcased our new Advanced Life Support Rescue at the Beech Street Center. The firefighters at Station 2 in Belmont Center were happy to provide a station tour and fire safety information to a local Cub Scout group. Back in October, the fire department was excited to take part in the annual Trick or treat event at Town Hall.

Our firefighters were proud to provide a program of instruction to the Belmont Public Schools nursing staff. Two Firefighter/Paramedics presented the “Stop the Bleed” program to teach effective control of traumatic bleeding. We look forward to bring this program to other town departments as well as residents of Belmont.

Don't forget to check out the latest episode of **“HOT TOPICS”** with Chief Destefano and Captain David DeMarco available on the Belmont Media Website or by [clicking here](#).



Belmont Public Library

Wednesday, November 22nd was the final day of service in the current building and library services are planning to reopen in temporary locations in mid-December.

Services available during the transition:

While packing up and moving, the library will have the following services available:

1. Book returns will continue in our book drop even after our final day of service. Once we begin moving, returns will also be accepted at the Beech Street Center.
2. At the Beech Street Center, Museum Pass pickup will be available. You can still reserve museum passes via the normal procedure but for passes that required a physical pass to be picked up, those will be available at the Beech Street Center. While you are there, do not forget that they have computers, comfortable seating, magazines, and programming. They are looking forward to seeing you!
3. Limited programming will continue to be offered, both in person and virtually on Zoom, so check our events calendar for offerings.
4. Librarians will be standing by to help you between the hours of 9am and 4pm, both with online chat, as well as our new Library Hotline number (617-993-2871). Do not forget, you can always use the online chat function, even in the middle of the night. Staff will see your questions once we begin work in the morning.

Department of Public Works



It is bittersweet that Belmont Department of Public works would like to show its appreciation for the three longtime employees whose combined service amounts to more than 104 years of institutional knowledge! The achievements and impact that these individuals have made to the Town and the DPW over the years would be too much to list. Each of these individuals will be missed and the Town wishes them a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Judy Carmody, Business Manager – 24 years

Rick Bemis, Highway Operations Manager – 38 years

Mike Santoro, Assistant DPW Director – 42 ½ years



Temporary Locations



The Beech Street Center
266 Beech Street
Belmont, MA 02478

The Beech Street Center will be our main location for public services. We will offer circulation of materials, reference services, computers, and programming for all ages. We will have some limited children's materials here as well. Library service hours at the Beech Street will be:

9 AM-7:30PM, Mon. – Thurs.

9AM-5PM, Fridays

9AM-3PM, Saturdays



The Benton Library
75 Oakley Road
Belmont, MA 02478

The Benton Library will be our main location for Children's Services. We will offer materials circulation and reference, and some small-scale programming. We will have some limited adult materials here and you will be able to request this location for material pick up. Library services at the Benton will be:

9AM-12PM & 2PM -5PM, Mon., Tues & Fri.

10AM-1PM & 3PM-7:30PM, Wed. & Thurs.

9AM-3PM, Sat.

Town Clerk's Office

Get ready for election season! The Town of Belmont will hold its annual Town-wide election in April 2024. Nomination Papers are currently available at the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall. For more information, The [Town Clerk's webpage](#) contains information and links for precinct maps, campaigning, campaign finance, Election Day activities and prohibitions, etc. Also, you can find information on how to apply to be an election worker. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's office at 617-993-2603 or send an email to townclerk@belmont-ma.gov.

Elected Office Overview:

The Town of Belmont's elected government consists of an Executive branch, comprised of eight independently elected multi-member Boards, Commissions and Committees with one elected full-time employee (Town Clerk) and a Legislative branch called the Representative Town Meeting, comprised of one Moderator, and 288 elected Town Meeting Members (36 from each of our eight voting precincts).

Each year, seats in these bodies are open for election; sometimes an incumbent will choose to run for re-election but no one holds or owns a seat without running for election; each open seat must be won. Typically, the term for these Town wide officials is three years, however the Housing Authority is a five-year term and the Moderator is a one-year term. Town Meeting Member terms are for three years, unless there is an early resignation by a Town Meeting Member, leaving a vacancy for the remainder of the original member's three-year term. Town Meeting is Belmont's legislative body that votes on the budget and all of our General and Zoning By-Laws.

Getting your name onto the ballot is relatively simple:

- Appear in person at the Town Clerk's office, present your identification, complete and take the appropriate number of nomination papers.
- Circulate the papers among your friends, acquaintances and neighbors or even complete strangers, making sure to confirm with the signer that he/she/they live in Belmont and is a registered voter of Belmont.
- When collecting signatures, allow for drop-offs such as non-voters, voters of another precinct or illegible signatures.
 - FOR TOWNWIDE OFFICES: Collect at least 60 signatures of Belmont registered voters to be certain you'll have enough to make the necessary 50 certified signature minimum.
 - FOR TOWN MEETING MEMBER: Collect at least 32 signatures of Belmont registered voters **only from your precinct** to be certain you'll have enough to make the necessary 25 certified signature minimum.
- By mid-January the Town Clerk's office will post the list of partial term vacancies for Town-wide office and Town Meeting Member seats that will appear on the Annual Election Ballot.
- **By 5pm on the Deadline (February 13, 2024)**, turn in the signed nomination papers to the Town Clerk (acting as a member of the Board of Registrars) for certification of the signatures. Nomination papers are certified by the Town Clerk's Office staff in the order they are received.
- Once the signatures are certified by the Town Clerk and the minimum has been met, your name will appear on the ballot for the Annual Town Election and you'll be notified by email or phone.

Town-wide Offices



<u>Townwide Office</u>	<u>Annual Town Election Ballot</u>
Select Board	<i>1 member for three years</i>
Board of Assessors	<i>1 member for three years</i>
Board of Cemetery Commissioners	<i>1 member for three years</i>
Board of Health	<i>1 member for three years</i>
Housing Authority	<i>1 member for five years (appears four out of five years)</i>
Municipal Light Board	<i>2 members for three years**</i>
Trustees of the Public Library	<i>2 members for three years</i>
School Committee	<i>2 members for three years</i>
Moderator	<i>1 person for one year</i>
Town Clerk	<i>1 person for three years *</i>
Representative Town Meeting	
Town Meeting Members	<i>12 members for three years in each of eight voting precincts</i>
<i>*Offices on ballot only in years when current term is expiring. **Elects one member every third year.</i>	

Belmont Light

Belmont Light is excited to share some electrifying news! The American Public Power Association (APPA), the service organization for over 2,000 community-owned electric utilities in the U.S., recently announced that Belmont Light is the recipient of two honors, one a designation and one an award, aimed at recognizing leaders in the electric utility industry.



Smart Energy Provider

The first honor bestowed upon Belmont Light is the Smart Energy Provider (SEP) designation, which the APPA grants for demonstrating a commitment to and proficiency in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and environmental initiatives that support the goal of providing safe, reliable, low-cost, and sustainable electric service.

The SEP designation, which lasts for two years (December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2025), recognizes public power utilities for demonstrating leading practices in four key disciplines: smart energy program structure; energy efficiency and distributed energy resources programs; environmental and sustainability initiatives; and customer experience. Belmont Light is one of about 90 public power utilities nationwide that hold the SEP designation.

Kris Sellstrom, Energy and Gas Resources Manager at Jamestown Board of Public Utilities in Jamestown, New York, and chair of APPA's Energy Innovation Committee describes the honor: "SEP-designated utilities have demonstrated their leadership in smart energy programs and services. This designation celebrates utilities that are committed to serving their customers while taking the extra step to plan for the future. Communities served by utilities that have earned the SEP designation should be proud of their utility's accomplishments."

Public Power Customer Satisfaction Award

Belmont Light has also earned APPA's Public Power Customer Satisfaction Award for providing excellent service to Belmont according to a survey our Belmont Light customers. The award is the result of receiving high marks from customers in the areas of: customer service; field personnel; communication; reliability; value; outage response; innovation; and overall satisfaction.

Winners of Public Power Customer Satisfaction Awards are chosen at gold, silver, and bronze levels based on responses to customer surveys. Belmont Light received a Silver-level award for an average rating greater than 90% across the eight categories listed above.

Belmont Light General Manager, Craig Spinale said of this award, "We are in the public power business to serve the people of Belmont, and to be recognized by this community for our dedication to excellence in this service is incredibly gratifying. We have a great team here at Belmont Light."

Belmont Light will release the results of its 2023 Customer Satisfaction Survey later this month.

Belmont Recreation Department

The [Belmont/Watertown SPORT \(Special Programs Organized for Recreation Time\)](#) program's flag football teams, The Patriots and The Hawks were invited to compete in the league finals at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough. It might have been a little wet and a little cold, but that didn't take away from any of the fun. Both the Hawks and Patriots took home bronze medals! Way to go and congratulations!



Heidi Barberio of the Belmont Recreation Department has been involved with the program for 10 years and with the Special Olympics for more than 30 years. She reports "it had been a few years since the teams have been to the playoffs, but everyone was happy to be back." Heidi would like to thank all of the players and volunteers (Mia, Lexi, Chandler, Jay, Ralph, Kevin and Alex) who helped out! Check out some pictures from the event on the following page.

In other news, there are always fun activities and events happening at the Belmont Recreation Department, you can check their website for more information, by [clicking here](#).

Belmont/Watertown SPORT at the Flag Football Finals, Gillette Stadium



Council on Aging

December is hopping at Council on Aging's Beech Street Center. This month is packed with enlightening, engaging and entertaining events! You can visit the [Beech Street Center's website](#) for more information and a complete list of events. Check out some of the highlights below!

Programs:

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program is a federal program designed to help low-income seniors, 60+, access healthy food provided by the USDA. Rising inflation and health care costs can make maintaining access to sufficient amounts of nutritious food challenging for many seniors living on a fixed income. This program provides food boxes twice a month including food items such as: peanut butter, cheese, juice, rice, pasta, cereal, canned vegetables/fruit/meat. To sign up you must meet income guidelines: Call Janet to sign up: 617-993-2983

HOME INTERNET DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Want to save \$30 off Internet bills every month? Learn more, see if you qualify and sign up! Qualifications for The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP):

1. If you earn less than 200 % of the federal poverty guideline- \$29,160 for 1, \$39,440 for 2
2. If you are already on a government assistance program: SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, Veteran's Pension & Survivor Benefits.

Documentation needed to qualify. Call for more information and to sign up, 617-993-2983 Application assistance on December 6th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. Time slots available.

Belmont
COUNCIL ON AGING



Council on Aging continued

Events:

SPRINGWELL HOLIDAY LUNCH

Thurs, Dec 14 at 12:00 p.m. COST: \$2.50

Come and celebrate this wonderful time of the year with the Springwell staff and our wonderful volunteers. We'll be serving stuffed chicken, orzo, and a Boston Cream cup for dessert. Stay to enjoy two wonderful performances from our very own Bel-Aires and the Singing Grandpops! The winner of the quilt raffle will also be announced during lunch. \$2.50 suggested donation to Springwell. Please call 617-993-2970 to register.

MEET & GREET WITH CHRIS RYAN

Tue, Dec 19 at 10:00 a.m. COST: Free

Do you have questions about the new zoning regulations that were approved at the special town meeting in November? Interested in learning about the planning initiatives currently in the works? Bring your questions and chat with Chris Ryan, Belmont's Director of the Office of Planning & Building, over coffee and donuts. Please call 617-993-2970 to register.

BOSTON TEA PARTY 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WITH THE BELMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tue, Dec 19 at 1:15 p.m. COST: Free

The Belmont Historical Society invites you to gather to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party on Tuesday December 19, 2023 from 1 o'clock to 3 o'clock. The celebration will include a presentation featuring the historic event, an interactive exchange of fun facts to test your knowledge, a chance to sample some "Liberty Tea," and an opportunity to purchase hand crafted products that pay tribute to the occasion. To reserve your spot, register at belmonthistory1859@gmail.com

KINSHIP GROUP

Thurs. December 14th and 28th at 2:30 p.m.

As we age, our support systems shrink and many of us are navigating life on our own. So, in May 2023, a group of older adults got together at the Belmont Library to talk about these changes. We've continued to meet every 2 to 3 weeks to share ideas and resources, discuss important topics such as safety, housing, and health as well as provide much needed social and emotional support to each other. We enjoy outings together and our second potluck is scheduled for December because the first was so successful. As one group member recently said, "We've created what feels like a family, we're there for each other." Please join us when we meet in Classroom B at the Beech Street Center on Thursday, December 14th and December 28th from 2:30 to 4. We look forward to meeting you.