



Belmont
 MASSACHUSETTS
The Town of Homes

From the Office of The Town Administrator

Belmont Bulletin

February 2023



February Select Board Meetings

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Important Dates:

February 9, 2023:
 Budget Summit V

February 20, 2023:
 President's Day – Town
 Offices Closed

Contact the Town Administrator's Office

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That winter breeze is unmistakable—it must be February! We hope that you have a nice President's Day this month and a happy Valentine's Day too!

As you strategize on how to keep warm while you're out and about, take a moment to consider all the happenings around Town in this month's edition of the Belmont Bulletin.

Keep Up with the Select Board

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

- [January 9, 2023](#)
- [January 12, 2023](#)
- [January 19, 2023](#)
- [January 23, 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. At the next Budget Summit on **February 9th**, the Town Administrator and School Superintendent will present the preliminary Town and School budgets. The main policy making boards and committees – Select Board, School Committee, Warrant Committee and Capital Committee – have attended four FY2024 Budget Summits so far. In addition to [meeting minutes](#) on the Select Board webpage, video recordings of the prior summits are available on the [Belmont Media website](#). Use the links below to view these meetings.

- [Budget Summit I – September 15, 2022](#)
- [Budget Summit II – October 20, 2022](#)
- [Budget Summit III – December 14, 2022](#)
- [Budget Summit IV – January 12, 2023](#)

Additionally, an electronic copy of the FY2024 budget and Budget Summit presentation materials are available on the [Town Budget Information](#) page of the Town Website.

Community Updates:

Belmont Fire Department

In January, the BFD welcomed firefighter recruit Nicholas Volante to the department. Recruit Volante is a Belmont native and will undergo in-house training before participating in the Boston Fire Department Training Academy in February.

The fire department also placed in service 40 new pieces of self-contained breathing apparatus (air packs). The new air packs replace units that were over 10 years old and out of compliance with current safety standards. This equipment increases the safety of our firefighters and allows them to protect the lives and property of our residents more efficiently. The department would like to thank the residents of Belmont for supporting us in this Capital Budget purchase.

The Massachusetts Department of Fire Services recently awarded the Belmont Fire Department a grant of over \$6,500 to provide Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) and Senior SAFE programming in our community. This funding will allow our dedicated team of instructors to reach school-age children as well as older adults. Providing timely safety instruction and public information to those most affected by fires and other life safety emergencies aligns with the BFD goal of community risk reduction through public interaction.

The Town's insurance provider, MIIA, recently provided, at no cost, an emergency vehicle driving simulator. This traveling simulator was at Fire HQ for a week-long training session that encompassed all four work groups. Realistic simulation of emergency vehicle driving scenarios as well as classroom instruction helped Belmont Firefighters sharpen their skills in a no-risk environment.



Town Clerk Announcements:

Local Election:

Belmont's Annual Town Election will be held on **Tuesday, April 4, 2023**. Considering running for elected office in Belmont? To get your name on the ballot, visit the Town Clerk's Office to get nomination papers. **The deadline to submit completed papers is February 14th at 5:00pm.** [Click here](#) for more details.

Voter Registration:

The deadline to be registered to vote for Belmont's local election is 5:00pm March 24, 2023. You may register online at www.voteinma.com. You may also verify your voter registration there and see where your precinct votes. If you prefer, you may register to vote in person at the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall.

Become an Election Worker:

Consider helping Belmont vote! We are always looking for more great people to work in our precincts on election day. Thorough training, half-day shifts, and minimum wage pay are offered. If you are interested, please let us know by completing an online form found [here](#). Thank you for considering becoming an election worker and remember to vote April 4th!

2023 Census:

Annual Town Census forms were mailed to every household in **mid- to late-January**. Please review, update, sign, and return your form as soon as you can. This helps keep our list of residents and voters accurate.

Pet Licenses:

All cats and dogs are to be licensed by March 15th. Renewals may be done online ([Click here](#)), 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 in Town Hall. Applications were mailed to every household with the census form. Please [Click here](#) for more details including a link to the [application form](#).



Council on Aging

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

Belmont
COUNCIL ON AGING



Event Highlights:

Grab your racquets and get ready to play some Pickleball!

Mondays 11:00am - 12:00pm | Tuesdays 10:00am - 11:30am

Thursdays 8:30am - 11:30am | Fridays 8:30am - 11:30am **Cost: \$2**

Get moving and having fun with the newest racquet sport craze. The Beech Street Center will have one pickleball court four mornings a week—all abilities welcome! Limited equipment will be made available to borrow, so please bring your own if you have it. [Preregister on the MyRec site.](#)

Life Transition Binder 4-Class Workshop

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2:00 - 3:30pm (at Belmont COA) | Thursday, Feb. 16, 2:00 - 3:30pm (at Belmont COA)

Thursday, Mar. 7, 2:00 - 3:30pm (at Watertown COA) | Thursday, Mar. 14, 2:00 - 3:30pm (at Watertown COA)

Cost: \$7 per person, includes customized binder

Members of the Belmont Fire Department will be on hand 3rd to discuss space heater and winter safety. Firefighters will also discuss the File of Life program, its importance, how to fill out the document, and where to keep it for use in a medical emergency. Please bring with you a list of your medications and some simple information about your current medical condition. If possible, bring a family member or other person to assist you while you are documenting the form.

“Modern Pronouns: They is Correct” with Julie Nowak

Friday, Feb. 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Cost: Free

Using “they” and “them” in the singular may seem to go against what you learned about grammar in grade school, but you’ve probably been noticing a lot of people using the pronouns they/them instead of he/him or she/her... so many people that Massachusetts now offers M, F, and X gender markers on driver’s licenses, and terms such as nonbinary and genderfluid have made it into mainstream media. Wondering what it all means? Join us for a talk by Julie Nowak (she/they/xe), LGBTQIA+ Initiative Coordinator at Springwell. Questions are warmly welcome throughout the presentation. Call 617-993-2970 to register.

“Some Forgotten Heroes and Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement” by

Donna Halper, Associate Professor at Lesley University

Friday, February 24 at 1:15 p.m.

Cost: Free

This lecture focuses on Martin Luther King Jr. and the Story of the Civil Rights Movement. Most of us know about Dr. King, but let's take a look at the movement he led and how his leadership helped to change society. In this talk, you will not only learn about how the Civil Rights movement grew; you will also meet the men and women who worked with Dr. King to make it happen.

Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee

The Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee is producing a series of short videos highlighting specific aspects of the project. In the latest video, Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee members Diane Miller, Tom Caputo, and committee chair Bill Lovallo discuss construction costs oversight of the new Middle and High School building. Stay tuned for more updates each month!

[Click here](#) to watch the most recent video updates!



Belmont Public Library

Beyond the racks of books and resources there is a lot happening at the library this month, check out some program and event highlights below.

Virtual Author Talk: Erica Armstrong Dunbar

Wednesday, February 22 at 7pm on Zoom

We are excited to welcome writer, historian, and lecturer Erica Armstrong Dunbar for this virtual presentation! In this event, she will focus on Harriet Tubman, "a heroine whose fearlessness and activism still resonate today." This program is sponsored by Belmont Public Library, Belmont Human Rights Commission, Belmont Against Racism, Network for Social Justice, and the public libraries of Chelmsford, Danvers, Franklin, Groton, Hopkinton, and Wellesley. **Registration is required. Please fill out the form [here](#) to sign up**

English Conversation Circles

English conversation circles have expanded! There are still spots available in three conversation circles, where you can practice your English-speaking skills in a supportive environment. The groups meet weekly and continue through the week of March 27, 2023. For more information and to register, check on the library website [here](#).

Li Liu Acrobat Performance

Wednesday, February 22 at 11am, Assembly Room of Library

A perfect way to break up February vacation for children: see a fantastic acrobat amaze us right here in our library!

One-on-One Tech Help

Need help accessing library e-resources like Hoopla, or eBooks & audiobooks? Or maybe you need some basic computer guidance? Tech Help is back at the library! Check the online calendar for appointment times and to register

Belmont Recreation Department

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

Sweetheart Dance

February 3rd at the Beech Street Center, 6:00PM

A special Valentine's themed event for kids grades K-3 and their adult. Food, music and games will be available.

Belmont Health Department

The Belmont Health Department is looking for your help! Please participate in a survey by scanning the QR Code on the right or by [clicking here](#) to identify whether or not you have seen postings about Town Vaccine Clinics. This information will help our Health Department communicate more effectively with residents going forward. Thanks for your help!

BELMONT

PUBLIC

LIBRARY



[Click here to view the Winter Rec Dept Brochure](#)



Health Dept. Survey

