



Belmont
MASSACHUSETTS
The Town of Homes

From the Office of The Town Administrator



Belmont Bulletin

May 2024 Edition



**May 2024
 Select Board Meetings**

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20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

 Select Board Meeting
 Town Meeting

**Contact the Town
 Administrator's Office**

Address:
 455 Concord Ave.
 Belmont, MA 02478

Email:
townadministrator@belmont-ma.gov

Phone: 617-993-2610

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

Happy Mother's Day! The sun is shining, leaves are filling trees and flowers of all colors are blossoming... it must be May! In addition to what we hope will be a month filled with good weather, we also pause to reflect on the tremendous sacrifice of service men and women on Memorial Day. There has been a lot happening around Town over the course April and lots to come in May. Segment B Annual Town Meeting will begin later this month on Wednesday, May 29, 2024. Also, this month we are looking forward to Belmont Town Day on May 18th!

Select Board News and Initiatives:

The Select Board, Town Administrator and Staff would like to welcome Matthew Taylor as the Newest member of the Select Board

On April 2, 2024, Matthew Taylor, Warrant Committee Member and Town Meeting Member (Precinct 1) was elected as the newest member of the Belmont Select Board in the Annual Town-wide election. Select Board Member Taylor's first Select Board meeting took place on April 5, 2024. The Select Board, Town Administrator and Staff look forward to working with Select Board Member Taylor over the course of his term.

Annual Town Meeting:

Belmont held Segment A of Annual Town Meeting starting on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 7:00PM. Segment B has been scheduled for May 29th, June 3rd, June 5th and June 10th. More information about the Annual Town Meeting can be found by visiting the Town Clerk's Town Meeting Documents and Information webpage or by [clicking here](#).

Announcing Annual Appointments for Town Committees, Commissions and Boards:

Members of the Belmont Community interested in volunteering to serve on one or more of our Town's Committees are welcome to apply through our [online application portal](#) or QR Code to the Additionally, *current* committee members seeking to renew or continue their committee membership can submit their applications through the [online application portal webpage](#) on the Town of Belmont website.

Keep Up with the
 Select Board



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

- [April 1, 2024](#)
- [April 5, 2024](#)
- [April 8, 2024](#)
- [April 18, 2024](#)
- [April 26, 2024](#)
- [April 29, 2024](#)

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



Please Scan the QR Code above to complete submit a new or renew an exiting Committee Volunteer Application

REMINDER: DPW Construction Project—Removal and Replacement of DPW Fuel Tanks:

Please know that, Green Services, Inc. will be onsite to remove and replace the fuel tanks at the DPW Yard. The work week schedule will be Monday through Friday, 7AM-5PM. The project is expected to end by August/September 2024. For more information, please call the DPW at 617-993-2680.



Belmont Town Day on Saturday, May 18, 2024 From 10AM-4PM

The Annual Belmont Town Day presented by the Belmont Center Business Association will be taking place on Saturday, May 18th from 10AM-4PM in Belmont Center. Please join us for a fun-filled day celebrated our community and our local businesses. We look forward to seeing you there!

Interested in registering for a table at the event? Please visit the [Belmont Center Business Association Events webpage](#).

Belmont Town Day
Saturday May 18th 10am - 4pm

Schedule of Events

Belmont Lions Club Pancake Breakfast, 9-11am \$5
(Located at 2 Common Street)

Dunk Tank - Proceeds go to www.belmonthelps.org

Kiddie Rides | Arts and Crafts tables

Classic Car Show (on Moore Street)

Elsa and Spiderman - 11-1pm
(at the Watertown Savings Bank tent)

JS US Taekwondo demonstration - 12-12:25 (Main Stage)

Pan Asian Coalition Dance Group - 2-2:30 (Main Stage)

The Robo Hub - Drone Flying for kids

MUSIC ON THE MAIN STAGE

9:00 - 11:00am So Blue Jazz

11am - 2:00pm The Reminisants

2:40 - 4:00pm Mount Hope Praise Band

Sponsored by

Watertown
— Savings Bank —

Presented by

Belmont Center Business Association

May 2024

Employee Spotlight

Laura Albert

Payroll Manager

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 Laura Albert of the Town of Belmont's Accounting Department. Laura is a relatively new member of the accounting team and began her role as Payroll Manager in 2023. Though her tenure so far has been short her impact has been felt through her ability, professionalism, and her willingness to learn and collaborate with colleagues. Her contributions to conquering challenges and her ability to learn the ropes over the past year has allowed her to become an imperative member of the Accounting Team.

The Accounting Department works to maintain the fiscal records and internal financial controls for all Departments of the Town and School, as well as, processing the Town's payroll and accounts payable to the Town's vendors. When asked about the role that Laura plays in all this, she says with a characteristic smile and chuckle, "my main responsibility is processing the Town's payroll from start to finish."

Those who work with and know Laura are likely to recount her professionalism, willingness to learn, confidence take on challenges, an unrelenting drive to get to the root cause of an issue and her collaborative approach to getting things done. Handling a payroll that includes hundreds of employees along with other temporary and seasonal positions is no easy task and Laura prides herself mastering the details and intricacies of her work, which is where she finds her motivation.

As Laura explained, having so many details and intricacies can, on a regular, basis lead to searching for answers to complex questions, evaluating current systems and practices to discover ways they can be more efficient, as well as, learning nuances of our current payroll systems and tools to leverage that knowledge to increase and maintain accuracy. As Laura says, "I kind of feel like I'm Scooby-Doo—digging and digging until I solve the mystery and there is nothing better than pulling the mask off a problem that you're trying to solve."

Laura found her way into the municipal sector at a time when she was seeking better use of what she sees as her greatest professional skills: customer service and a drive to help people. In Laura's words, "I wanted to work somewhere that I would be on the forefront of helping people." Laura has a deep appreciation for the impact that working for a municipality can have from witnessing the work of her mother who spent over 20



years in the in the municipal world and also her brother. Laura had even worked for a short time when she was 18 in the Belmont Treasurer's Office. All of this helped Laura know that the Town of Belmont would be a good fit.

Since starting in Belmont, Laura has seen challenges as exciting. As Laura says, "Any new job that you have is going to have its challenges and I think you have to expect that. As someone who recently completed their first year, my biggest challenge is understanding how everything works, because everywhere is different. I think of it like you're climbing a ladder, just taking it one rung at a time getting closer and closer to understanding. With each rung of the ladder, the more confident I get."

Part of achieving that confidence has been Laura's ability to prioritize communication and collaboration with her fellow employees, a quality that has led her to achieve much in a short time. Whether it is solving a payroll issue, cleaning up pay and deduction codes, W-2 reporting, working toward a full digitization of payroll or playing a hand in the roll out of the new Employee Self Service (ESS) portal, Laura credits collaboration as the main force that drives things forward. Like Scooby, Laura knows that the mystery can't be solved without the help of the rest of the "gang" and she is always ready to hop aboard or welcome aboard collaborators on the "Mystery Machine."

Laura still has much to aspire to in the coming years with Belmont. Looking forward she is still focused on the people that work for the Town and the people of the Belmont community. In Laura's words, "I work a lot with numbers when I'm doing payroll, however what I'm doing isn't all about the numbers—it is the people behind those numbers who've done the work and how that work has done so much good for other people. At the end of the day, we are all just people helping other people."

When Laura is not problem solving and enjoying her work, she enjoys kayaking, a special hobby that she took up during the Pandemic. She enjoys taking her kayak to many beautiful spots across the State and is looking forward with great anticipation to the upcoming "kayak season" this spring and summer.

Community Updates:

Belmont Police Department

The Belmont Police Department has kept busy over the past month responding to numerous calls for service logging 19 motor-vehicle crashes, 19 summonses/arrests, 65 Co-Responder Responses and 1,573 calls for service. Officer Bingo, Belmont PD's Australian Labradoodle "comfort dog" attended training at in Tewksbury and we are proud to report that he earned his AKC STAR Puppy and AKC CGC (Canine Good Citizen) acknowledgements. Officer Bingo also visited the Town Municipal Complex, stopping by the Town Treasurer's Office for a photo shoot.

The Belmont Police Department has also announced it has posted a job opportunity for a Police Officer position, more information can be found on the Belmont Police Website or by [clicking here](#).

Also in April, the Belmont PD announced their participation in the [Blue Envelope Program](#). This initiative represents a collaborative effort aimed at fostering a safer and more understanding environment for drivers with autism spectrum during traffic stops.

The Police Department was also excited to engage with members of the community and students at Burbank's STEM night. We hope that everyone enjoyed their fingerprint cards!

The Police Department would also like to acknowledge Belmont Police Communications Officer William Wood has been awarded a Life Saving Commendation by State 911, presented on April 18. Officer Wood's exceptional actions on March 13, 2024, were pivotal in saving the life of a 25-year-old male, earning him this commendation.

Upon receiving a call regarding an unconscious individual in cardiac arrest, Wood provided precise guidance on utilizing the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and administering CPR. Thanks to his swift actions, the patient received vital assistance from the AED, leading to a successful revival. Subsequently, Fire personnel promptly arrived at the scene, administered additional aid and transferred the patient to a nearby hospital for further medical attention.

Special Event:

On Saturday, June 1, 2024, join the Belmont Recreation, Fire and Police Departments for the first ever bike rodeo! This family fun event will include games, music and more. Mark your calendar from 9AM-3PM and be at the Winn Brook Elementary School (97 Waterhouse Rd).



Officer Wood with Erica Adams, Public Education Coordinator for the State 911 Department

BIKE RODEO

JOIN BELMONT RECREATION, FIRE, AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS FOR THE FIRST EVER BIKE RODEO! WE WILL BE GIVING AWAY FREE BIKE LIGHTS AND HELEMTS THANKS TO OUR MA DOT GRANT AWARDED TO THE BPD!

THERE WILL BE GAMES, MUSIC, AND MORE!

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

SATURDAY
JUNE 1ST, 2024

9 AM - 3 PM
NO FEE!

WINN BROOK SCHOOL, 97 WATERHOUSE RD

@BELMONTRECREMA
617-993-2760

RAIN DATE 6/8

Belmont Fire Department

Members of the Belmont Fire Department have had an active month responding to incidents as well as conducting numerous training evolutions. Our recent training activities included practicing rapid deployment of our pumper's master stream appliance, capable of flowing a large volume of water on a large, or rapidly advancing fire. In addition, McLean Hospital partnered with our Training Division to provide a class for each shift on the operation and safety of their MRI machines. Our firefighters were able to gain the knowledge necessary to work safely, and mitigate emergencies involving these units.

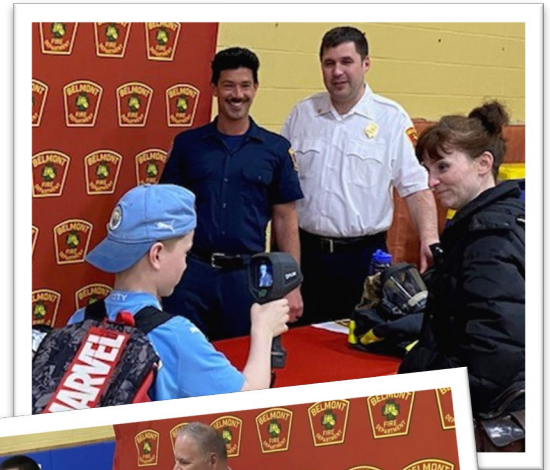
Our firefighters also participated in community outreach at the Burbank School's STEM night. We showcased some of the technology used in the fire service to help save lives. This included demonstrations of our thermal imaging cameras as well as a cardiac monitor, self-contained breathing apparatus, and personal protective equipment.

The Belmont Fire Department also welcomed Stenio Pereira as a new firefighter to the Department. FFOP Pereira previously served in another career fire department in the Commonwealth and is currently assigned to Group 1 in the Operations Division.

With warm weather months approaching, we would like to remind all residents to use landscaping mulch safely, and not to dispose of smoking materials in mulch beds. Homeowners should consider providing a minimum of 18 inches of clearance between mulch beds and any combustible building material, including wood decks. Rocks or pea stone may be a safer alternative.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, the most notable mulch fire in Massachusetts occurred in May 2015 in Arlington. A man was killed, and over \$6 million dollars in property damage occurred when smoking materials were discarded in the mulch bed of an apartment complex and the fire rapidly spread to the building.

- If you smoke, put it out, all the way, every time! Use appropriate receptacles for disposal. Never discard smoking materials in a mulch bed.
- Never discard smoking materials out a car window.
- Mulch that is piled too deeply (more than a few inches) can build up heat and spontaneously catch fire.
- Report any smoke or fire by calling 9-1-1.



Belmont Light Department



Things are looking Bright at Belmont Light!

Belmont Light has once again received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2023. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association (APPA), a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

APPA tracks power outage and restoration data for electric utilities through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service. Once per year, APPA's Reliability Team compares this data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) for all types of electric utilities.

"It's encouraging to see year after year that public power's track record for providing highly reliable service is backed up by data," said APPA Director of Research and Development Paul Zummo. "These utilities are the best of the best when it comes to keeping the lights on. And these communities should be proud of their local power providers and appreciate the hard work that goes into earning this recognition."

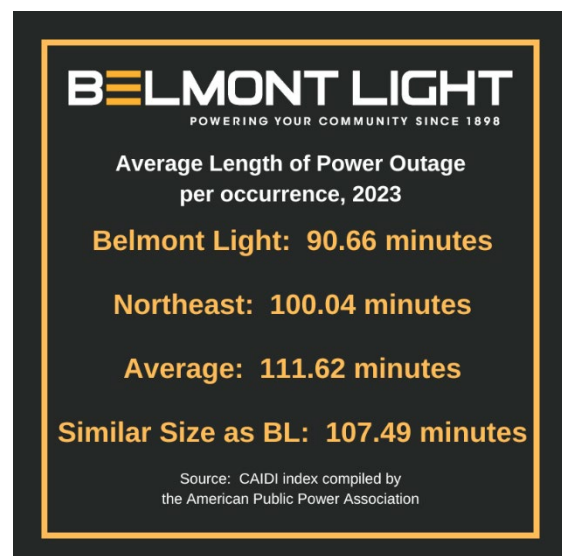
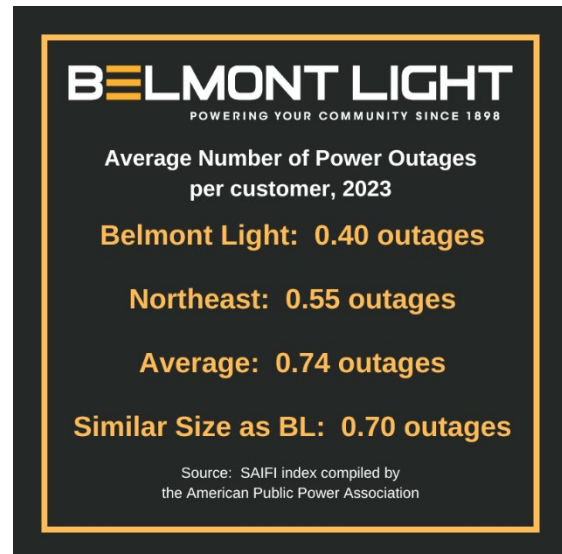
Nationwide, the average public power customer experiences power interruption for less than half the amount of time that customers of other types of utilities do, including investor-owned utilities like Eversource and National Grid in this area.

"We are proud to receive this recognition. It is a testament to the hard work of all our staff to ensure that we keep Belmont powered," said Craig Spinale, General Manager of Belmont Light. "Our main goal is always to keep the lights on, and being recognized as a leader in that regard is special to all of us at Belmont Light."

In the year 2023, the average Belmont Light customer was without power for 36.6 minutes total, compared to 89 minutes for customers nationwide. The average Belmont Light customer experienced 0.4 outages in 2023, compared to 0.74 for customers nationwide. When a power outage did occur in Belmont, the duration was 90.7 minutes on average, compared to 111.6 minutes for all utilities.

Spinale credits Belmont Light's commitment to improving its electric delivery system through the Voltage Conversion Project, the ongoing effort stemming from the construction of the 60-megawatt Blair Pond Substation to replace outdated electric infrastructure with state-of-the-art 13.8 kV rated wires, transformers, poles, and other equipment.

For more information on Belmont Light and its commitment to reliability, visit www.BelmontLight.com.



Belmont Public Library

As summer approaches, we will have many activities for all ages, but you don't have to wait until June to have some fun with the library staff. On May 15th we'll begin our annual Sunflower Challenge. Come to our temporary locations and bring home a pack of sunflower seeds. Once they start to bloom send us pictures of them all and we'll share them far and wide. It's a great way to brighten up our community this summer with some bright happy sunflowers.

BELMONT

PUBLIC

LIBRARY



The Belmont Public Library is now live with our new library catalog, Aspen Discovery. The previous catalog, Encore, will be accessible through June 30th. There are a lot of great benefits to using Aspen including: better browsing; grouped search results; and better list management. You will also have the opportunity to turn on a record of your reading history to keep track of what you've read or heard on Libby or hoopla too! To find out more, check out the getting started guide [here](#).

We are proud to announce a new service called "Text a Librarian". It is as easy as it sounds. Send us a text, during our open hours, and a Librarian will be standing by to get back to you with whatever info you are looking for. If you have a burning question that needs an answer and you can't get to a computer, text us at 1-617-906-6770. Texts should not be sent while you are playing trivia with family or friends!

We have had a great response to our request for feedback, so we are going to extend it out for one more month. In the past, we have had success with well-developed surveys, but at this moment, we are simply looking for open-ended feedback. How do you think we are doing in our temporary spaces? It is hard to believe it has been almost 6 months since we closed down the old library, and now the groundbreaking is imminent. Let us know how you think things have shaped up in our temporary locations, and how you think we could improve. All ideas are welcome. [Please reach out and let us know how we are doing.](#)

Thanks everyone, we'll see you at the library!

-Peter Struzziero, Library Director

Council on Aging

The Beech Street Center is bubbling with activity this May! 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. Additionally, please check out the Beech Street Center News Letter available on the Beech Street Center's website or by [clicking here](#).

Event Highlights:

100th Anniversary of the VFW with the Belmont Historical Society

Fri May 10th 1:15pm - 2:45pm

The Belmont Historical Society presents this program at the Beech Street Center! Please join us in recognition of Post 1272's 100th Anniversary and Centennial Year! The Belmont Historical Society will host a celebration and presentation that will pay honor to local veterans by highlighting monuments located around town that commemorate the efforts and sacrifices of those from Belmont who have served in the armed forces from our Town's incorporation until today. Please **call 617-993-2970 to register**.

NEC Concert: Category 5 Winds

Tue May 14th 1:15pm - 2:15pm

Formed in fall of 2023 by students at the New England Conservatory, Category 5 Winds consists of members Honor Hickman (flute), Corinne Foley (oboe), Evan Chu (clarinet), Graham Lovely (horn), and Abigail Heyrich (bassoon) who came together to discover and learn the classics as well as the underrated works for Wind Quintet. Come join us for a lovely afternoon of music, **call 617-993-2970 to register**.

Medicare 101 with MetroWest SHINE

Fri May 17th 1:15pm - 2:15pm

Join us for a Medicare 101 educational meeting hosted by the MetroWest SHINE program. This presentation is an overview of Medicare for people turning 65 or those just signing up for Medicare. We will be discussing Medicare enrollment as well as information about the parts of Medicare and coverage options. The meeting will include time for Q&A. **Call 617-993-2970 to register**.

Music Through the Decades with David Polansky

Fri May 24th 1:15pm - 2:30pm

Music Through the Decades is a one man show highlighting American hit songs, all of which were inspired by major events in our history (e.g. advent of the automobile, WWI, the Big Band Era, the Great Depression, WWII, and The Atomic Age.) All of the songs are performed live on trumpet, keyboard, and vocals by David Polansky. **Please call 617-993-2970 to register**. This event made possible by a generous donation by the Friends of the Belmont Council on Aging.

8 Weeks in Ukraine 2023: Life During War

Wed, May 10th and 24th at 10:30 a.m.

After a two-month stay in Ukraine in 2022, Tania Vitvitsky returned in late September 2023. As President of Ukrainian Charitable Platform (ukrainecharitable.org), the purpose of the 2023 trip was to continue engaging with Lviv-based Ukrainian Education Platform, a social-educational non-profit, as well as Kyiv-based Eleos-Ukraine. Tania will visit the Beech Street Center to share photos and stories of her 2023 trip to war-torn Ukraine. **Please call 617-993-2970 to register**.



Tuesday Movie Matinees

The Beech Street Center shows movies **every Tuesday beginning at 3:00pm**. May's schedule will feature the following films:

May 7: The Big Sleep

May 14: Local Hero

May 21: Mister Roberts

May 28: Animal House

Visit our [Facebook page](#) for all the latest updates, at-home activities, and virtual programs!