



November Edition 2023



The leaves are falling, the air is getting brisk and we are starting to have cravings for our favorite Thanksgiving delights. It must be November! We wish everyone and their families a happy and safe Thanksgiving later this month. We also hope that we all may find a moment to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice of veterans this Veterans Day.


November is set to be another busy month here in Belmont. Among the many items to look forward to is the Special Town Meeting taking place on November 6th, 8th and 13th.

So, in between baking or taking a bite out of your favorite November-time pie, please take a gander at the happenings in this month's edition of the Town Administrator's Belmont Bulletin.

November

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	

 Special Town Meeting, Dept. Budget Hearing, Budget Summit

Select Board News and Initiatives:

Special Town Meeting this Fall:

Mark your Calendars, a Special Town Meeting will be held this month. The meeting will be held in-person at the Belmont Middle and High School Auditorium (221 Concord Ave) with a remote option via Zoom also available. For Special Town Meeting information please visit the [Town Clerk's webpage](#). The Special Town Meeting dates are listed below:

- **Monday, November 6, 2023**
- **Wednesday, November 8, 2023**
- **Monday, November 13, 2023**

Department Budget Hearings

Each year, the Select Board hears from departments on their budget requests. The meetings for FY2025 are scheduled from 8:30-11AM on Weds, November 15th and Friday, November 17th.

FY2025 Budget Summit II – November 30, 2023

The second budget summit for FY2025 will take place on **November 30th**. 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 made available on the [Town Budget Information](#) page of the Website.

Keep Up with the Select Board



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

- [October 12, 2023](#)
- [October 13, 2023](#)
- [October 23, 2023](#)
- [October 25, 2023](#)
- [October 30, 2023](#)

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



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

Town Offices Closed:

November 10, 2023
(honoring Veterans Day)

November 23, 2023
(Thanksgiving)

November 24, 2023
(day after Thanksgiving)

Contact the Town Administrator's Office

Address:
455 Concord Ave.
Belmont, MA 02478

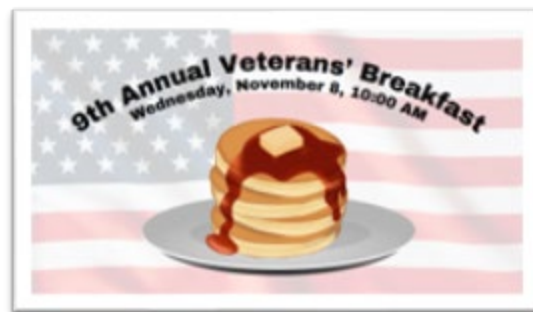
Email:
townadministrator@belmont-ma.gov

Phone: 617-993-2610

Select Board News and Initiatives Continued:

9th Annual Veterans' Breakfast – Wednesday, November 8th at 10 AM

Meet Belmont Veterans' Service Officer Bob Upton, Council on Aging staff, and local representatives over coffee and breakfast. Belmont Hill Schools' B-Flats will perform and help serve the meal. Breakfast is limited to 100; please call 617-993-2970 to reserve your seat by Wednesday, November 1. This event is generously sponsored by East Cambridge Savings Bank.



Free Flu and COVID Vaccines for the Under or Uninsured:

Are you currently without health insurance? Do you have Health Insurance but your insurance does not pay for vaccines? If so, the Belmont Health Department may be able to vaccinate you with the Flu and/or COVID vaccines free of charge.

Please call our office at 617-993-2720 or email dneylon@belmont-ma.gov for more information and to schedule an appointment. These vaccines are given most Mondays and Wednesdays at the Homer Building, 19 Moore St., right outside of Belmont Center.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Emergency Alerts System:

A new Emergency Alerts System went into effect on July 17th. The Belmont Police Department has contracted with a new provider. To learn more about the new system, please visit the [Belmont Police website](#) or [click here](#) to view a brochure.

Massachusetts Department 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.

An advertisement for the Community Health Equity Survey. It features a woman in a yellow sweater pointing and holding a megaphone. The text asks "What makes Belmont healthy & strong? Your voice." and provides information about the survey. At the bottom, it says "Take the survey now at Mass.gov/Healthsurvey" and includes a QR code with the instruction "Scan to take survey". Logos for Belmont and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health are also present.

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

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

Scan to take survey

November 2023

Employee Spotlight

Nancy Casale

Town Clerk Office Administrative Assistant

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 Town Clerk Office Administrative Assistant, Nancy Casale who has worked for Belmont since 2006 and is now in her 17th year. Nancy describes her job as "very busy with a constant array of tasks and responsibilities" that help keep the Town Clerk's Office running.

Belmont is tightly integrated into Nancy's story. Nancy grew up in Belmont and graduated from Belmont High School. Nancy is a proud 3rd generation Belmont resident, and has chosen a career serving her community, building on the legacy of her mother who worked as a secretary for the Belmont Public Schools at the High School and the old Chenery Middle School. Inspired by appreciation for her hometown and her mother as role model, Nancy applied for a job in the Town Clerk's office and has been a presence that is both professional and welcoming.

Nancy finds herself working with the Town Clerk team to fulfill vital records requests, organizing Town Meeting and a variety of other responsibilities such as pet licensing, business licensing, census info and residency verification. Nancy also manages Belmont's team of election workers, which includes approximately 100 Belmont residents who help make local, state and national elections possible.

The importance of organizing and maintaining the infrastructure and integrity of the election system cannot be overstated and having someone like Nancy with the knowledge and poise that comes with 17 years of experience plays a large part. During her tenure, Nancy has been involved with more than 50 elections in Town!

How has Nancy done it? Nancy says, "It is easy to stay motivated because I work with such a great team! We work really well together and support each other. It is a pleasure and I am fortunate to work with Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Meg Piccione and Dan Cane."



Nancy describes the Clerk's Office as a collaborative environment, where everyone pitches in to work together to meet deadlines and get things done.

Coming into work each day, Nancy looks forward to the challenge of balancing her daily tasks with the curveballs from on-the-spot inquiries that keep her on her toes. Despite this, Nancy finds the greatest fulfillment in responding to inquiries from some of the 8,000 customers who visit the Clerk's Office each year looking for more information on vital records, voting, or other topics. "Our customers are the best!"

During her time in Belmont, Nancy is most proud of her ability to maintain a chameleon-like adaptability to new technologies. Over the years, Nancy has demonstrated a willingness to learn how to incorporate new tools and methods to add to her efficiency and effectiveness.

She shares, "I am most proud of learning new technologies. For example, vital records (birth, marriage, death) used to be completely paper-based. Now most are originated, corrected, recorded and generated electronically. I must be proficient in systems to be able to solve our customers' problems efficiently and patiently. All Town Clerk office staff have collaborated and strived to modernize our office operations so that we can accomplish more."

Outside of work Nancy enjoys sewing (both clothing and home décor), gardening, baking, listening to music and spending time with her family. Nancy enjoys taking walks around Belmont and visiting State Parks. Nancy and her husband, Michael, recently celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary and are proud parents of their adult son and daughter.

Community Updates:

Belmont Fire Department



The Fire Department responded to an average of 12 incidents per day for the month of October. These incidents ranged from fires involving structures and outside property, to medical responses and traffic collisions with injuries. While maintaining their availability for incident response, members of each shift conducted fire safety inspections and training, as well as numerous public engagement activities.

The Belmont Fire Department was also proud to participate in the Farmer's Market Public Safety Day. Our firefighters were on hand to provide a tour of Engine Co. 2 and provide fire and life safety information.

Also, in October Town Clerk Ellen O'Brien-Cushman gave the Oath of Office to our new Firefighter on Probation Paul De Farias. FFOP De Farias is currently working with the Division of Training and will be assigned to a shift soon.

In keeping with our mission of community risk reduction, the Belmont Fire Department offers home safety surveys to any Belmont resident. Our Community Liaison/Public Educator will visit your home and provide you with a report on important fire and life safety elements like smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, escape plans, cooking and heating safety, and other areas of concern. Please contact Fire Department Headquarters at 617-993-2202.

With cooler weather approaching, please take care to dispose of ashes from fireplaces or woodstoves safely. Bring them outdoors and place them in a metal container with a cover. Store the container away from houses, sheds and fences. Fires of all types are on the increase in Massachusetts, with a 14% increase in structure fires between 2021 and 2022.

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

As the leaves begin to turn color, the page leaves of the story of the Belmont Public Library continue to turn as well. We are approaching the end of the storied tenure of the library's current building as this season marks the last in the library's current home. **Wednesday, November 22nd will be our final day of service in the current building with plans to reopen in our temporary locations in mid-December.**

Throughout the month of November, the Belmont Public Library will be slowing down normal business to focus on packing and moving. For a time, we will have less programming and will be adjusting the process of requesting and receiving holds.

Please know, November 22 will be the last day to pick up any holds for 6 or 7 days as it will be our final day of service in the current building. It is expected that the library will close for 3-4 days after the Thanksgiving Holiday. On Monday November 27th items on hold will move to temporary locations and will be available for pickup. We hope to make those items available again by November 28th / 29th.

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.

This is an exciting time for us all, and we ask you to stay patient as we navigate the transition of our services. **Come and say goodbye to the Library Building and enjoy some refreshments and fellowship on Saturday November 18th from 2-4pm. We'll have CAKE! And some brief remarks at 3pm.**



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.

Council on Aging

November is bopping 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:

LIHEAP FUEL ASSISTANCE

The MA Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a free resource to help eligible households pay a portion of winter heating bills. Homeowners and renters, including households whose cost of heat is included in the rent, can apply. The program is open November 1- April 30th. A list of documentation needed will be provided. For assistance: 617-993-2983.

Events:

THE GOLDEN BACHELOR WEEKLY SCREENING

Every Monday from Nov 6th to Dec 18th at 12:00 p.m.

COST: Free

Have you heard about The Golden Bachelor, the new dating sensation taking over television? We will begin with episode one on Monday, November 6th and will show an episode every week until Monday, December 18th, followed by a special airing of the season finale on Friday, December 22nd! Each episode is about 1 hour in length. No registration necessary; please sign in for this event upon arrival at the Beech Street Center.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT

Tue, Nov 14th at 1:15 p.m. COST: Free

This session, we will share an inside look at how scammers think, how to safeguard against identity theft and fraud, first-hand accounts from those who have been victimized, and what to do if you or someone you know has been victimized. This talk will be presented by Alice Diamond; Alice is a career and admissions coach who speaks about fraud and identity theft to community groups as part of the Massachusetts AARP Speakers Bureau, and also volunteers on the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline. Please call 617-993-2970 to register.

RAINBOW JEOPARDY!

Tue, Nov 28 at 1:15 p.m. COST: Free

Did you watch Jeopardy winner Amy Schneider during her epic winning streak? Join us for an interactive game of Jeopardy – with rainbow stripes! Come test your trivia skills and have fun learning about LGBTQ+ celebrities and changemakers such as Sally Ride and Bayard Rustin who have shaped our history! Your Host: Julie Nowak, LGBTQIA+ Initiative Coordinator for Springwell Please call 617-993-2970 to register.

GBCGAC OUTREACH PROGRAM 贝尔蒙特外展服务

Rui Wang 王先生 of the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center will serve as in an outreach capacity at the Belmont Council on Aging. He will be at the Beech Street Center 贝尔蒙特老人中心 on the third Thursday of every month from 9:00 - 11:00am 上午, with meetings on November 16th and December 21st. Services include information & assistance, outreach, English classes, and vital signs. 服务包括中文咨询, 转介, 健康讲座, 英文课, 血压测量等项目 You can contact him at 电话 617-789-4289.

VETERANS' BREAKFAST

Wed, Nov 8 at 10:00 a.m. COST: Free

As a thank you to our local veterans, the Belmont Council on Aging will host its ninth annual Veterans' Breakfast, free for veterans. Doors open at 9:30am, service begins at 10:00. Breakfast is limited to 100; please call 617-993-2970 to reserve your seat by Wednesday, November 1st. This event is generously sponsored by East Cambridge Savings Bank.

MEET THE BELMONT AMBULANCE TEAM

Wed, Nov 15th at 12:30 p.m. COST: Free

The Belmont Fire Department has a new ambulance! The ambulance team will be at the Beech Street Center to show seniors around the new vehicle, highlighting its new features and capabilities. They will come park the new ambulance outside of the Center for an hour during lunch; come by with questions and to say hello to the team! **Please call 617-993-2970 to register. Please note that this event will be subject to postponement based on any emergent situations that arise in town.**

Belmont
COUNCIL ON AGING



Belmont Recreation Department

Things are always fun and exciting at Belmont's Recreation Department! Last month as part of Halloween activities, the Belmont Recreation Department gave Town Hall's auditorium a spooky makeover for a trick or treat event that was a huge success! Check out some pictures from the event below.

Many more fun activities and events for Belmont's families are to come in the month of November and beyond. You can always check out all the happenings at the Recreation Department by visiting their website at belmontma.myrec.com.



Belmont Health Department

Flu & COVID Vaccine Clinics:

The Belmont Health Department is partnering with the Waverly Square Star Market (Osco) Pharmacy to offer Flu and COVID vaccine clinics in October and November, with clinics planned for the following dates:

- **Wed 11/8/23: 10am to 2pm** at Temple Beth El, 2 Concord Ave.
- **Mon 11/13/23: 2pm to 5pm** at the Beech Street Center, 266 Beech Street

Please visit the [Belmont Health Department Facebook page](#) for the most up to date vaccine clinic information this fall, and for links to preregister. Advance registration is recommended.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.