

## Employee Spotlight

### David DeMarco

Captain, Belmont Fire 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.

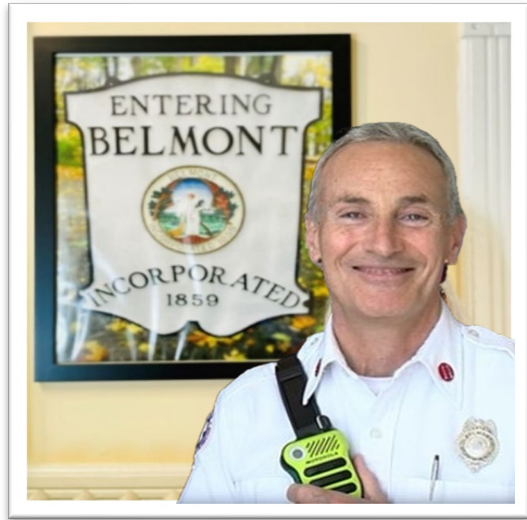
In this month's Bulletin, Town Administrator Garvin would like to recognize Belmont Fire Department Captain David DeMarco. This year Captain DeMarco will be celebrating 30 years as a member of the Fire Department. Over the years, Capt. DeMarco has been a familiar and friendly face at the fire Department whose commitment and dedication to professionalism, education and the safety of the community has truly been exemplary.

Capt. DeMarco is both an Officer and a Shift Commander of the 11-12 firefighters who work a 24-hour shift as members of Group 1, the first of four rotating firefighter groups. The group and for that matter the whole department, whose bond Capt. DeMarco describes as that of a "family," is responsible for responding to a wide array of emergencies. Capt. DeMarco explains, "We are a team of dedicated firefighters whose aim is to solve the problems we are faced with while treating everyone who we help with the same care and respect that we would give to a loved one."

Capt. DeMarco's journey to the Belmont Fire Department began with the principles and values instilled in him growing up in Belmont. While working at the Mass General Hospital, he would often witness the work of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel. DeMarco admired their work and trained to become an EMT himself where he witnessed the helping actions of firefighters. He related to helping people and this would fuel his motivation to pursue a career as a firefighter.

Over the years, Capt. DeMarco has overcome day-to-day challenges by "faith and belief in God [and also] knowing that no challenge is faced alone, there is always another brother or sister firefighter with an experience or idea and we can work together to overcome any challenge." His abilities, experience and mentorship of his fellow firefighters is why Chief David DeStefano describes Captain DeMarco as "an excellent representative of the pride and dedication of the Belmont Fire Department."

Not only does Captain DeMarco fulfill his duties as an Officer and Shift Commander, but he furthermore serves in the newly created role of Community Liaison/Public Educator, in this role he assists to administer the Home-Safety Inspection Program, is a co-host of Belmont Media's "Hot-Topics" TV program, and is a member of the EMS Bike Unit.



Capt. DeMarco has also been an instructor for the past 20 years at the Massachusetts Fire Academy (MFA). While this "MFA" may not stand for the Museum of Fine Arts, like the ability to create a great masterwork, the success to safety in firefighting is about knowing, practicing and mastering the "basics" of the trade. As Capt. DeMarco explains, his main message to the upcoming firefighters in the academy is "always stay a student who is willing to learn and practice fire survival techniques and skills, because when we find ourselves in survival situations the basics will become instincts."

Capt. DeMarco's commitment to the betterment and safety of the Belmont community is strong. As a liaison between the Department of Fire Services and local fire departments across the Commonwealth for the Public Education Unit of the Fire Marshal's Office he has helped fire departments with the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) program and Senior SAFE program. These grant funded programs have had an amazing impact across the State, including the Belmont Community, with trained firefighters from the Belmont Fire Department conducting fire safety trainings with school children, adults and seniors. Additionally, trained firefighters conduct CPR, AED and First Aid trainings to the public which make ongoing contributions toward Belmont's designation as a "Heart Safe Community". Capt. DeMarco takes great pride in these community accomplishments and may be seen checking on the condition of AEDs located at parks throughout Belmont.

Outside of his work as a firefighter, Captain DeMarco enjoys exercise and spending time with his family. He has run the Boston Marathon twice, ridden the Pan-Mass Challenge, participated many times with his fellow firefighters in climbing Boston Stair Climb to support the American Lung Association, participates in the B-fit challenge and is a Town Meeting Member for Precinct 8 in Belmont.

Capt. DeMarco would also like to thank Chief David Destefano for his leadership, the members of his Group for their professionalism and support, and all the mentors that have helped him over the years. In addition, he would also like to thank his wife Sharon and his two children, Anthony and Isabella for their constant support and motivation.