

Employee Spotlight

John Steeves

Police Department Technical 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 John Steeves of the Belmont Police Department. John has worked for the Town of Belmont for 39 years and is currently the Police Department's Technical Assistant. Over the years, John's expertise, professionalism and willingness to take on a wide variety of tasks and responsibilities has made him an imperative member of the Police Department's team.

John describes his role as "handling a diverse array of responsibilities ranging from managing and maintaining hardware and software computer programming for the Police Department, to the maintenance of parking meters." John is also a familiar face among the Town's other departments, including the Facilities Department where he acts as the Police Station's building liaison. Additionally, John serves on the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) as the Police Department's liaison.

Those who work with and know John are likely to recount his pleasant demeanor, friendly smile and unwavering willingness to lend a helping hand. John approaches each day and each new task with professionalism and determination to work toward the goal of preparing those on the frontlines in the Police Department with the resources and knowledge to provide the best possible service to the Belmont Community.

John is rooted in the Belmont Community, which is where he grew up since the age of 8. John valued being involved in the community and while in high school he began to seek out volunteer opportunities with the Town. John's official work with the Police Department began as a civilian dispatcher. Prior to the mid-1980's, dispatchers at the Police Department were all officers and John would be amongst the first *civilian* dispatchers hired by the department when the role was expanded to include civilian applicants.

John would also spend time as a member of the Belmont Auxiliary Police Unit, which for decades provided volunteer police services. The Belmont Auxiliary Police Unit was formed in 1941 and disbanded in 2022. The Auxiliary officers would wear a different uniform and badge from the full-time officers, but were well-trained to assist with civil emergencies and special events helping to maintain police presence at schools



and other municipal property. John would say of the experience, "it was great getting to help keep an eye on things and it really gave me an appreciation for what our officers do and made me take great pride in the community."

As a Civilian Dispatcher, John would help assist with computerizing the Police Department's systems in the early 1990's. A task that began with the dispatch system to organize incoming calls, track pertinent information, and disseminate that information to responding units or agencies would grow into a computerization of nearly every facet of the Department's administrative workday. John was in at the beginning of this process and has helped to shepherd its growth ever since. "There has been a lot of changes and a lot of growth over the years that has helped make the department more efficient...technology has been a big part of that." Despite its efficiencies, John gives a big smile and head nod when it comes to keeping tabs on the technology itself. "That's a big part of what I do, making sure everything is up-to date and making sure that everyone using the technology knows how to use it."

More recently, John assisted in the renovation of the Police Station that was completed in 2021, communicating and coordinating with the construction teams. He has also taken on the additional responsibility of the role of the Town Parking Clerk in 2023.

Day-to-day there are many challenges John faces in his position and he admits that "it sometimes feels like a lot for one person to do, but the important thing is to prioritize each task." After all his years on the job, John says that he is still motivated to come into work every day, because "there is always something different and new, I enjoy it."

Looking ahead, John mentions the possibility of retirement in a few years but stresses the importance of helping others understand what he is leaving behind and expressing his confidence that he knows they will be able to carry it forward. When the day comes, John will surely leave some big shoes to fill.

Outside of his work, John enjoys spending his time reading a good book, on the computer, taking a walk and perhaps most of all spending time with his two puppies.