



Belmont
MASSACHUSETTS
The Town of Homes

From the Office of The Town Administrator

Belmont Bulletin

April 2024 Edition



April 2024

Select Board Meetings

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 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.

Spring has at last sprung and let's hope that some spring-time weather accompanies the time of year. Its April and there's much to do from doing the spring cleaning to working in the garden. As you open up your windows to let in some spring air, please take a moment to review this month's bulletin. There is much in store for the month of April, including the Annual Town wide election on April 2nd and the start of the Annual Town Meeting on April 29th.

Select Board News and Initiatives:

The Select Board, Town Administrator and Staff would like to acknowledge and express gratitude for the Service of Select Board Member, Mark A. Paolillo

After four terms on the Select Board, Mark A. Paolillo will attend his final Select Board meeting as a member on April 1, 2024. Mark leaves a storied tenure and legacy of service behind. Select Board Member Paolillo began his service in 1997 as a member of the Traffic Advisory Committee and has served on countless committees since including two separate stints on the Select Board totaling 12 years. Select Board Member Paolillo has maintained a high standard of commitment and dedication to the Belmont Community which the Select Board is sincerely grateful.



From left to right: Administrative Supervisor Pam Callahan, Select Board Member Elizabeth Dionne, Select Board Member Mark A. Paolillo, Select Board Chair Roy Epstein and Town Administrator Patrice Garvin

Annual Town Meeting:

Belmont will hold its Annual Town Meeting starting on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 7:00PM. The remainder of Segment A is scheduled for May 1st, May 6th and May 8th. 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](#).

Keep Up with the
 Select Board



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

[March 4, 2024](#)

[March 18, 2024](#)

[March 25, 2024](#)

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

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

Starting Monday, April 1, 2024, 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.



Roadway Construction Updates:

Updates are made periodically to the [2023/2024 pavement management program](#) and are listed on the Town Website. To view the most current updates, please visit the [2023/2024 Pavement Management Program webpage](#).

Important Reminders from the Treasurer's Office:

The Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office has mailed all 4th Quarter Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes due on May 1st. We encourage residents to sign-up for an online account with CHS from the Town's website or at <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com>.



Having an account allows users to –

- Receive bills electronically, which saves paper, printing and postage costs.
- View and manage bills electronically.
- Track billing and payment history at all hours of the day (helpful when filing federal taxes).
- Set-up automatic payments, including for auto excise once they are linked to your account.

Online fees are 2.95% for credit card payments and \$0.50 for ACH (direct debit) payments from a checking or savings account. The ACH charge is less than a postage stamp and a 47% reduction from our prior vendor's fee.

CHS customer service representatives are also available to accept payments over the phone. Simply call 508-3815455 to make a secure payment or ask for help setting up an online account.



Announcing the Town of Belmont Educational Scholarship:

Applications are now being accepted for The Town of Belmont Education Scholarships, which are funded from Taxpayers' check-off contributions and private donations earmarked for general scholarship purposes. Awards are based on financial need, academic performance (unweighted GPA), and extracurricular activities including community service, school groups and clubs. Applications will be evaluated by the Town of Belmont Education Scholarship Committee. Scholarship applications were sent to Belmont High School Seniors and can be accessed from the Guidance Office or the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office.

This scholarship is open to ALL legal residents of the Town of Belmont. Applicants must be presently attending or have received acceptance to attend an accredited educational institution beyond the high school level prior to payment of scholarship award.

- Belmont High School Senior (Belmont Residents Only), please return the completed application, Applicant Appraisal and PCQ to Carole Sceppa at csceppa@belmontschools.net or bring to Guidance Room 106.
- For Town Residents, please return the completed application, Applicant Appraisal and PCQ to Odalys Torres at otorres@belmont-ma.gov or mail to Town of Belmont, Treasurer's Office, PO Box 56; Belmont, MA 02478

Deadline for applying is Friday, April 12, 2024.

April 2024

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."

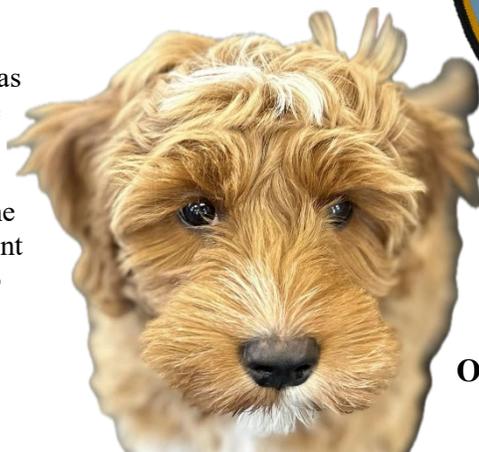
Looking ahead, John mentions the possibility of retirement in a few years but stresses the importance of helping others understand what he is leaving behind and expressing his confidence that he knows they will be able to carry it forward. When the day comes, John will surely leave some big shoes to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

Community Updates:

Belmont Police Department

The Belmont Police Department has kept busy over the past month responding to numerous calls for service. The Police Department was recently happy to welcome its newest member, Officer Bingo to the team. Officer Bingo is a four-month-old Australian Labradoodle. Bingo will be a “comfort dog” and will be helpful in situations supporting individuals who have suffered trauma, stress or grief. The Belmont Police Department is proud to be the first police Department in the area to adopt a comfort dog program. Starting in April, Bingo will experience a month-long training program shadowing comfort dogs at the Tewksbury Police Department.



Officer Bingo

A couple of safety tips for this month are as follows:

Mail Fraud:

Towns in the area, including Belmont, have seen a rise in “check washing.” Suspects are traveling to mailboxes and removing envelopes with checks. Keys for USPS mailboxes are universal with one key opening every mailbox and keys have been stolen from mail carriers throughout the country. Suspects then “wash” a check by erasing the name and dollar amount and “rewriting” the check to another person in a large dollar amount. **Please never mail checks using a mailbox. Always enter the Post Office and hand your check to a Post Office employee.**

Contractor Scams:

With Spring upon us we would like to remind residents of contractor scams. In the past, Belmont Residents have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars involving these types of scams. These usually occur when a scammer knocks on your front door looking for business because they “are in the area.” The Scammer then pressures you into an immediate decision and asks you to pay everything upfront.

Special Event:

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

Recreation Department

With the coming of spring, that means another season of Recreation Department Programming. Be sure to check out the [Recreation Department website](#) to see their [2024 Spring and Summer Programs brochure](#).

Also, membership information has been posted for both the Higginbottom and Underwood Pools.



BIKE RODEO

JOIN BELMONT RECREATION, FIRE, AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS FOR THE FIRST EVER BIKE RODEO! WE WILL BE GIVING AWAY FREE BIKE LIGHTS AND HELMETS 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

@BELMONTRECMA
617-993-2760

RAIN DATE 6/8

Belmont Fire Department

In the month of March members of the Belmont Fire Department were active responding to many different types of incidents, including fires, medical emergencies and hazardous conditions. In addition, many inspections were conducted by in-service companies as well as the Fire Prevention Division. The fire department also participated in hands-on training evolutions as well as an MRI safety class presented by McLean Hospital.

Four veteran members of the department recently completed 20 years of service and were presented with Massachusetts Firefighter Service Awards by Chief DeStefano. Lieutenants Jason Corsino and Thomas Deneen as well as Firefighters Chris Hadge and Brian Campana were recently honored on their respective shifts.

The Belmont Fire Department was also active engaging and educating our community. Chief DeStefano and Asst. Chief Tobio recently represented the BFD at the Pan-Asian Coalition Lunar New Year Celebration. The second installment of Coffee with the Fire Chief was a big success, as was our sponsorship of a class called “Before Help Arrives.” Instructed by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). This program was well attended by an enthusiastic group of residents who learned simple skills that may save lives in emergency situations. In addition, the fire department instructed a public CPR/ Narcan/ Stop the Bleed class that was very popular. Opioid Settlement funds were used to provide life-saving training to residents for medication administration as well as traumatic bleeding control and CPR certification.

Also in March, the fire department welcomed Belmont resident Brendan Shea to the fire service. Recruit Shea will soon attend the Massachusetts Fire Academy to complete his training and begin serving our community.

The BFD is pleased to announce that we have launched an online permitting and payment portal for the majority of fire department permit activities. Residents and businesspeople will be able to apply and pay for permits online, saving a trip to Fire Headquarters. Please visit www.belmontfire.org and go to “Inspections & Permits” under the Fire Prevention tab.

As is tradition in the BFD, active firefighters, retirees and family members gathered at Fire Department Headquarters on March 4th to honor the sacrifice of FF Roland A. Weatherbee who died in the line of duty on that date in 1985. A wreath-laying ceremony is held in front of the building that bears his name.

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](#).



Scan Here to Visit the
New Belmont Fire
Department Website



Council on Aging

April is here and that can only mean another month of amazing programming at the Beech Street Center! Get ready for another month full of 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!



Council on Aging Event Highlights:

Erin Lynch Phone Class

Fri Apr 5th 10:00am - 11:00am

Are you having trouble with your smartphone? Join Erin Lynch, a Belmont resident and experienced Google product manager, for a free smartphone help session at the senior center. Erin is eager to help you troubleshoot any issues you're having, from setting up your phone to using apps. Whether you're a smartphone newbie or a seasoned user, Erin is here to help you make the most of your device. Bring your phone and your questions to the senior center. Please call 617-993-2970 to register.

What was Ted Williams Like?

Fri Apr 5th 1:15pm - 2:15pm

Herb Crehan has been interviewing and writing feature articles on former Red Sox stars for the team's official program and alumni magazine for 28 seasons. And he has been speaking to local Councils on Aging for almost as long. Over the years the question he has been asked most frequently is "What was Johnny Pesky really like?" or "What is Yaz really like?" This presentation will answer those questions. Please call 617-993-2970 to register.

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party

Mon Apr 8th 1:30pm - 4:00pm

All ages welcome! We will provide eclipse viewing glasses and have children's crafts. Games by Knucklebones and food will be provided by Trolley Dog Food truck. This event will be cancelled in the event of rain or significant overcast skies. Please call 617-993-2970 to register. This event brought to you by the Council on Aging, Belmont Public Library, Friends of the Belmont Public Library, and Lynn Findlay Homes.

Michael Leidig Piano

Fri Apr 12th 1:15pm - 2:15pm

Please join us in welcoming pianist Michael Leidig back to the Beech Street Center for this spring concert! Michael is a classical, jazz and modern rock pianist who performs throughout the Boston area as well as Baltimore MD, Raleigh, NC and Ocala, FL He promotes musical appreciation through live performing and historical accounts of the lives of the composers. He currently teaches at Northeastern University. Please call 617-993-2970 to register.

Bake Sale for Alzheimer's

Mon Apr 22nd 10:00am - 1:00pm

We will be holding a bake sale in our lobby to benefit Alzheimer's research! Donations in the form of baked goods to sell or cash are accepted. All proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Association. Please contact Debbie Dunn for more details or to volunteer.

Medicare Supplement Plans vs. Medicare Advantage Plans

Mon Apr 22nd 10:00am - 1:00pm

We know how important it is to find coverage that fits your needs. That's why Medicare experts are leading a seminar to help you understand the differences between the two different plan types. This is an educational session on how Medicare plans differ with Lisa Farnham of Blue Cross MA.

Belmont Public Library

Spring has sprung and the library has found its groove in our temporary spaces. As the building is taken down and the groundbreaking approaches, we settled into our new homes and routines this winter, and are already gearing up for summer and beyond.

While the new building will be here before you know it, we'll be in our temporary homes for another year or so. Please let us know how you think we are doing. How are the hours? How do you like the setup? Have you had a chance to come to a program lately? Are you finding parking, ok? What would you like to see more of?

Please share your thoughts with us in whatever way you'd prefer:

- Send a note to our Library Director, Peter Struzziero, at pstruzziero@minlib.net.
- Share feedback through our website ([here](#))
- Drop a note in one of our suggestion boxes in person.

We can't promise sweeping changes in any direction one way or the other, but your feedback is valuable. We promise to consider your feelings and ideas, and do anything within our ability to improve your experience as we prepare to watch our new library be built.

We've relaunched our [Facebook page](#) and are keeping it up to date with all the latest updates. If you followed us on Facebook before, follow us again and help us advertise the page. We are also on [Instagram](#), and [X](#).

As we inch closer to warmer months, take a look at our Teen Offerings as Young Adult Librarian Maya Escobar prepares for her first summer in Belmont. All of our Teen Programs and services are highlighted on our website [here](#).

