Happy September! Students are back to school and fall is around the corner. As the leaves begin to turn and prepare to parachute downward, so too we hope will the temperatures—at least a little bit. It’s been a hot summer for sure!

Much is on the horizon in busy Belmont, check out what’s happening in the Belmont Bulletin for the month of September!

Select Board Initiatives:

FY2024 Budget Summit I on September 15, 2022
The Collins Center at UMass Boston released a report in June 2022 with 19 recommendations to enhance the fiscal management of the Town. One item which has already been implemented is hiring a Finance Director to oversee fiscal operations and provide leadership around the annual budget process. Another key point was to start budget planning earlier and focus on developing solid revenue projections that will serve as the basis for budget decisions. A series of budget summits have been planned for the Fall and Winter, starting with an initial summit on September 15th. The main policy making boards and committees will attend – Select Board, School Committee, Warrant Committee and Capital Committee – and the summit will be broadcast on Belmont Media. We anticipate that the process will continue to evolve as participants gain experience with it and reset expectations, and look forward to receiving feedback from both participants and the public.

“Chat with the Chair” Interview with Select Board Chair Mark A. Paolillo
On August 29th, Select Board Chair Mark A. Paolillo participated in Belmont Media Center’s “Chat with the Chair.” Steve Rosales interviewed Chair Paolillo for 30 minutes resulting in an informative discussion that highlighted some of the Select Boards work over the summer months and a look ahead. Watch the full interview here!

Fall Town Meeting
Mark your Calendars! The Town of Belmont will be having Town Meeting this fall on the following dates:

- November 29, 2022
- November 30, 2022
- December 1, 2022

Committees/Annual Appointments:
To view a full list of vacancies, renew, or apply please visit the Volunteer Opportunities webpage. Please contact the Town Administrator’s Office with any questions at 617-993-2610.
The Beech Street Center is buzzing with events this September! Ice Cream Social Fridays will continue every Friday from 1-2 PM. Additionally, check out some highlighted events below. Please visit the Beech Street Center’s website for more information and a complete list of events.

**COA Event Highlights:**

On Tuesday, September 29, 2022 from 7:00-9:00PM come and enjoy an evening of big band music performed by The Tom Nutile Big Band featuring vocalists Jim Bramante and Marianne Talty! Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the door. All proceeds from the event will support Senior Center services and programs. For more information, please call 617-993-2970.

**Belmont Fire Department**

The Belmont Fire Department continues to experience increased incident activity this summer. We have recorded a 20% increase in responses in June and July 2022 compared to the same months in 2021. Our firefighters have continued to engage the public during numerous community events, including neighborhood block parties and day camps.

On August 16th, we hosted a recruitment open house to showcase career opportunities with the Belmont Fire Department. We were happy that the event was well attended by many promising candidates.

In August, Firefighter on Probation, Michael Nolan, was re-hired after leaving Belmont for a period of service with another fire department. FFOP Nolan is also a paramedic and is able to quickly step into an active role on a duty shift.

The EMS Bike Unit made its initial deployment in August at the Becca Pizzi Road race. Capt. David DeMarco and Lt. Jason Corsino staffed the unit. Within minutes of their arrival at the High School the pair were called to aid a person in need of medical treatment. Being in such close proximity to the attendees and having the mobility of a bicycle, this unit is able to provide immediate care in situations where every second may count.

**Council on Aging**

The Beech Street Center is buzzing with events this September! Ice Cream Social Fridays will continue every Friday from 1-2 PM. Additionally, check out some highlighted events below. Please visit the Beech Street Center’s website for more information and a complete list of events.

**Belmont Light**

Join Belmont Light, Sustainable Belmont and the Belmont Energy Committee for a home, garden, and garage electrification event on September 17, 2022, from 10 am to 2 pm at Chenery Middle School. Test drive and view a number of electric vehicles from local dealerships and owned by Belmont residents, talk with a representative from Stihl about battery operated yard equipment, including leaf blowers, lawn mowers, and more. Learn about heat pumps for heating and cooling your home. Discover the affordability of going electric at home, including available rebates from Belmont Light. Hope to see you there!
**Belmont Public Library**

September is Library Card Sign-up Month! This year, we have entered into a friendly competition with our neighbors at the Watertown Free Public Library and Newton Free Library to see which can gather the greatest number of new library card signups. All new Belmont library card signups will receive a special bookmark as well as everything the library has to offer: access to an amazing collection of books, movies, databases, the Library of Things and so much more!

The Belmont Public Library is excited to announce that One Book, One Belmont will be back in October! This will be the first time that the program will be run in back-to-back years. The topic for this community read: Libraries. Check out the library website for further details.

**Belmont Recreation Department**

There are a lot of fun events and programs happening through the Recreation Department! Check out the Fall Brochure on the Recreation Department’s Website to learn more about upcoming registration deadlines.

**Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee**

The Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee is producing a series of short videos highlighting specific aspects of the project. Here are links to the first three videos that were filmed over the summer. Stay tuned for more updates each month!

Click the links below to watch the most recent video updates!

- Video update #1: Celebrating our first year
- Video update #2: Solar Panels
- Video update #3: Covid impacts on the Project

**Belmont Cultural Council**

The Belmont Cultural Council, in conjunction with the Mass Cultural Council, has set September 1st through October 17th as the application period for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the Belmont community.

The online application is available on the Mass Cultural Council Website. The Belmont Cultural Council is one of the Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) which serve all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The Mass Cultural Council is holding a virtual training session for LCC applicants on September 13th at 6 PM, please click here for registration details. Past projects include public art (Belmont Art Association Transformer Project,) all-town festivals (including Porchfest), music (Payson Park Music Festival), film (Belmont World Film’s 20th International Film Series), theater, science, and more.

**Belmont Police Department**

The Joint Public Safety Communications division of the Belmont Police Dept was recently awarded three (3) grants under the FY23 State 911 Department Grant Program totaling $121,799. The Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Grant pays for annual licensing and support for our EMD quality control software and for the backup EMD card sets to be used in the event of system failure. The Training Grant covers annual dispatcher training course fees, and straight time/overtime costs associated with attendance. It will also offset the costs associated with the basic training of newly hired dispatchers. Lastly, the Support & Incentive Grant is used almost exclusively to supplement our overtime budget.