

Our Community Newsletter

BELMONT



Town Administrator's Monthly Report



2020 Year in Review

In almost 30+ years in municipal government I have never experienced a year such as 2020. We successfully completed our Deliberative Session last January and our Annual Meeting in March. Many communities across the State were not so lucky and had to hold remote sessions using technology and drive by voting, at the time I thought this will all be over by late 2020 and planning for 2021's Deliberative Session and Annual Town Meeting could go forward as it always has. Sadly, I was wrong and here we are wondering what the next several weeks will bring. Our Deliberative Session is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 30th and we will continue to be optimistic that it will go on as it has for many years.



We closed Town Hall to the public in mid-March and reopened on June 15th, we had hoped that there would be no further disruptions to our open hours, however as recently as November 23rd, 2020, we had to close Town Hall to public access due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases and exposures in the Lakes Region and in Belmont. We will strive to reopen as soon as it is safe for our employees and community members, until then Town Hall will be fully staffed and ready to assist you through our online options and via phone or email. We do continue to offer the drop box in the front door of Town Hall.

2020 Tax Rate

The 2020 tax rate has been set at \$25.34 which breaks down as follows:

Town	\$8.34
Local School	\$13.70
State School	\$ 2.02
County	\$ 1.28

Overall, the rate increased by .33 cents this year.

Upcoming Meetings

The Board of Selectmen are scheduled to meet on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Our meeting agenda is posted on the Town's website at www.belmontnh.org, and we anticipate the meeting to be in a Zoom format.

The Budget Committee will be holding its meetings using a Zoom format due to the need for social distancing and concern for our members safety. Our agenda with login information will be posted on the Town's website at www.belmontnh.org.

Work continues to move forward on the new Police Station and the Selectmen have been meeting regularly with the Construction Management Team for project updates. Weather permitting, we hope to see the project completed in mid to late July.

Town Administrator's News (Cont.)

We realize there are a lot more people walking about these days so as a reminder if you are walking your dog, please scoop the poop!!



IT is the LAW! (RSA 466:31 II (c))

Our message to all Dog Owners is to remind you of the importance of picking up your dog's waste from property not your own. The town installed at three different locations, dog waste stations where you can obtain a plastic bag to pick up the waste and deposit it in the numerous garbage cans located in the Village.



Bulky Waste Disposal



Reminder that on the 1st Wednesday of each month Casella Waste will collect your bulky items curbside. Please note this is for Town of Belmont Residential Customers ONLY; service is not available to commercial property owners. Piles of debris, trash, yard waste or a single item too large for one person to collect WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. A request for pickup must be made in advance by calling Town Hall at 267-8300, Extension 118 or 124 only. You will be asked to list the items you want picked up, you will be advised what the cost is, and you will need to drop off a check made payable to the Town of Belmont prior to the collection day. Please visit the Town's website at www.belmontnh.org for the full details on the new program and a price list.



What's Flushable or Not

We continue to stress the importance of the **"Not everything is flushable"**, please check out the **"Do Not Flush!"** list to protect your sewer and septic system. A "Flushable" label does not mean it is SAFE for your septic system or the Town's sewer. Please read the brochure we have included on the Town's website at www.belmontnh.org. We need your help to ensure our sewers keep flowing.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Administrator's Office at 267-8300 ext. 124.



Just a reminder that the Town of Belmont is an active member of Lakes Region Public Access Television which can be seen locally on Atlantic Broadband Channels 24, 25, and 26. If you are a camera buff and you have an interest in producing a show to be shown on LRPA, please contact the station at 528-3070 to discuss your idea. LRPA has made significant strides to improve programming this past year and its presence in the Lakes Region; we urge you to check out their website at <http://lrpa.org>.

Town Hall Closings

Town Hall will be closing early on Thursday, December 24th at 12 noon and we will be closed all day on December 25th and Friday, January 1, 2021. We wish everyone a very safe and Happy Holiday season.



Town Clerk's Corner

Season's Greetings!

We here in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office hopes the holiday season finds everyone merry and well.

The month of December also brings with it the second issue tax bills. The second issue bills are due Tuesday December 8, 2020 and cover the period from October 1st – March 31st. Residents have the option of mailing in a check along with the payment stub, stopping by our office to make your payment or paying on our Town's website www.belmonthnh.org. Please keep in mind that if you are paying via the website there is an additional convenience fee added to the total.

Our office accepts cash, check or credit/debit card for payment, if using a card, whether in person or online, there will be an additional 2.79% convenience fee added to the total. We cannot accept card payments over the phone.

Our fourth issue water/sewer bills will also be hitting mailboxes this month. The fourth issue covers the months from September through November and will be due in January. The above mentioned payment options apply to the utility bills as well.

With the end of 2020 fast approaching we are given the opportunity to ring in 2021 full of optimism and resolution as well as renew boat registrations and dog licenses. We can help with both in our office!

This has been such a crazy year to navigate with all the craziness surrounding the Covid-19 virus as well as the election cycle, we would like to thank the residents of Belmont for your patience and understanding as we learned to navigate un-charted waters. Here's to 2021 being a great year!

Police Department News

Belmont Police Department
Lieutenant Steve Akerstrom



Porch Pirates



With the Holidays upon us, we would like to remind people about “porch pirates”. Porch pirates are people that go door to door stealing packages that have been delivered. Porch pirates’ activity typically picks up during the Holiday season as more and more people are having deliveries made to their homes.

While we are out patrolling the streets, we cannot be everywhere in town. So, it is important for residents to help us keep an eye out for people that are committing crimes. If you see someone that is unfamiliar to you or who is acting suspicious, please don’t hesitate to call us.

It should be mentioned that one should never approach a person committing a theft and instead should call the police department immediately. It is helpful to get a description of the person and if they are in a vehicle, what make and model and color it is. If you are in a position to obtain a license plate that is even better, but again, please do not place yourself in danger.

We can be reached 24/7 at 603-267-8350.

Winter

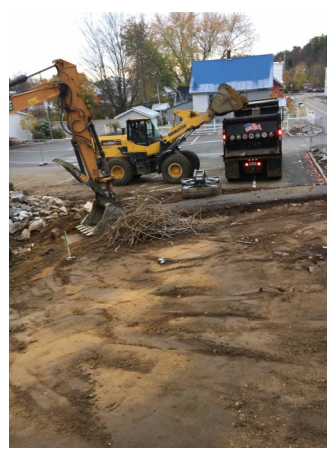
Winter is right around the corner and with that comes the snow, sleet, freezing rain, and slippery roads. The Department of Public



Works and State DOT do an excellent job of maintaining the roads, however during a snowstorm, the roads are slippery. With that said, each year we see folks that do not have the appropriate tires on their vehicle, and unfortunately, most times it is noticed after they have been involved in a crash or have slid off the roadway. Before the snow flies this year, take some time to ensure that the tires you have on your vehicle are sufficient for winter travel in New England.

Preparing for the slippery roads is essential for a safe commute. If you must travel during a storm, allow yourself extra time to get to your destination safely. For those new drivers that have never driven in the snow, remember this is something you have never experienced before and you should take extra precautions while driving.

Construction progress on the new Police Department Building





BFD Times

Hydrant Shoveling



We are all dreading it, but we are very quickly approaching the winter season, which means New England snow! As we prepare for this winter season, we ask that if our residents are able to, please help our crews by shoveling a 3 foot area around a hydrant near you after each snowfall. This allows working space around the hydrant in the event of an emergency. There are 91 pressurized hydrants in Belmont that need to be shoveled out. Our crews shovel hydrants after storms, but are still running calls during that time frame, which means that there may be a delay in getting hydrants shoveled out depending on the call volume and the weather. Every year our residents amaze us with the amount of help we get with this, and we are asking for your help again. To all who have helped us in the past, we thank you for your help and your support, and for all those wanting to help this year, we greatly appreciate any help you can give. Be safe and stay warm!

Highway Department News

Parking Ban



NO PARKING -The parking ban will be in affect starting **November 15th until April 15th**. Overnight on street parking will not be allowed during this time. Objects in the RIGHT OF WAY such as basketball hoops and such should also be removed.

Public Winter Sand

A new winter sand stockpile for the residents of Belmont has been completed outside of the Hurricane Rd. facility. This will allow for residents to obtain sand while we maintain a secure and safe facility. A friendly reminder, if you need winter sand for your driveway, we have a three 5-gallon pail limit. **Don't forget winter is right around the corner! Sorry!**



- ◇ **Sewer/Water Department Laborer**
- ◇ **Temporary Highway Department Truck Driver/Laborer**
- ◇ **Assistant Public Works Director (to be added soon)**

Full job descriptions can be found on our website at www.belmontnh.org



Before you dig, remember to call DigSafe
Not only is it safe, **IT'S THE LAW!**



Come On Baby, Light My Cleaner, More Efficient Fire

It's wood-heating season, and spending more time at home means you may be keeping the home fires burning more often than anticipated. Wood smoke may smell good, but it's not good for you. Wood smoke consists of particles that can get into your eyes and lungs, where they can cause burning eyes, runny nose and respiratory illness, such as bronchitis. The fine particulates of wood smoke can be inhaled deep into the lungs, collect in tiny air sacs (alveoli) where oxygen enters the blood, and cause breathing difficulties and permanent lung damage.

Fortunately, recent advances in wood-heater design have resulted in the manufacturing of cleaner-burning wood and pellet stoves. Here are some tips to maximize your stove's efficiency, save money and reduce adverse health and environmental impacts:

Burn only dry, seasoned wood. Cordwood should be split, stacked, covered and stored for at least six months. Burning wet wood will result in fires that are slow to ignite, smoky and create creosote in your chimney.

Don't know if your wood is seasoned? Your wood is seasoned if the moisture content is less than 20%. The only way to know for sure is to purchase a moisture meter, available at most hardware stores. Split the wood before taking a reading on the newly split surface. If the wood is seasoned, it should read below 20%.

Take everything you've learned about fire making and turn it upside down. Literally. Build an upside down fire by placing a few logs at the bottom and sides of the firebox similar to building a log cabin. Build up by layering smaller pieces on top of larger ones. Place your kindling or tinder (birch bark, small twigs, or pieces of cardboard work well) at the top of the stack and light it. The fire will burn from the top down, resulting in a hotter, cleaner fire.

When starting your top down fire, use ample kindling and give your stove plenty of air. Never burn garbage or treated or painted lumber in your stove.

A smoldering fire, "dirty" glass doors, or smoke from your chimney are all signs that your fire needs more air or your wood is too moist.

Have your stove and chimney professionally cleaned and serviced annually.

To learn more about best burn practices, visit EPA's Burn Wise Program at <https://www.epa.gov/burnwise>.



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Planning and Zoning Committee News



Planning

And

Zoning News

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 7

LAND USE BOARD MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD REMOTELY
(see agendas for login/call in information)

Application Review Committee (11/19/2020)

- No cases in November
- NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 17, 2020, 8:00 AM

Planning Board (11/23/2020)

- No cases in November—meeting cancelled due to increase in area COVID cases
- NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 28, 2020, 6:00 PM

Zoning Board of Adjustment (11/18/2020)

- November meeting continued to DECEMBER 2, 2020, 6:00 PM due to remote access difficulties
- NEXT REGULAR MEETING: DECEMBER 16, 2020, 6:00 PM

LAND USE & BUILDING INSPECTOR'S OFFICE CLOSED TO THE WALK-IN PUBLIC UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

In order to help “flatten the curve” of the COVID-19 pandemic, Town Hall is currently closed to the public. However, this does not mean we will not be working. Most resident questions, permit applications and other services can be addressed online or via phone or email, and as a last resort, you may schedule an appointment in Town Hall with the appropriate Town personnel to complete your transaction. Land Use staff will be working on-site and we will continue to be at your service during current business hours (7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday).

During this time of closure, we recommend initiating inquiries and permit submissions via phone by calling the Land Use Office at 603.267.8300 X 119 or emailing landuse@belmontnh.org.

THE LAND USE OFFICE THANKS ELAINE MURPHY

FOR OVER 25 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE

25 years ago this summer, Elaine Murphy first joined the Belmont Land Use office. While the community has seen many changes in that time, Elaine's proficient and polite service to the people of Belmont has remained a constant. Board Members and citizens alike have come to appreciate and rely upon Elaine's vast institutional knowledge and familiarity with the Belmont community. Elaine's hard work and dedication stand as an example to all of us, and we offer our thanks and congratulations as she reaches this remarkable milestone.

For additional Land Use Information

Visit www.belmontnh.org

Contact landuse@belmontnh.org

Call 267-8300 x 119





Belmont Heritage Commission

Last month, the Heritage Commission along with the Board of Selectmen honored Heritage Community Awards to the following:

Gretta Olson -Wilder received the *Community Partners and Special Events* Award. She was easily recognized for this award due to her diligent work as the Events Coordinator during the year long celebration of Belmont's 150th Anniversary in 2019. Olson-Wilder went above and beyond to bring many activities, concerts, and special events to the community. She was determined to acknowledge people, groups and moments that had helped form, inspire and enrich the town's history. Although this award is based on her relentless work during the town's 150th, her volunteer work far precedes her as she had also organized the Old Home Day parade and the Belmont Road Race for over 20 years.

Pauline Murphy was presented with the *Outstanding Contributions to Traditional Crafts* award. The commission chose Pauline (also known as Polly) for the contributions she has made to the town over many years. At the Belmont Public Library her art handiwork is in the antique grandfather clock face which she repainted during its restoration. One of the joys Pauline has enjoyed was

Heritage Commission News (Cont.)

drawing pictures of Belmont scenes such as the Bandstand and the Mill. The commission was delighted to acknowledge her contributions to the town and thank her for using her talents to recognize Belmont's Historical sites. We also send birthday wishes to Polly who recently celebrated her 92nd birthday!

Raine Wilkins work as a Student Representative earned her the *Young Leadership Award*. Raine became the first High School Student Representative for the Heritage Commission and volunteered two years working with our seven member committee. She attended meetings, volunteered at Old Home Day and helped brainstorm ideas for the 150th Anniversary of the town. She also became a valuable connection between the high school and the commission. Raine's efforts and two years of work set the stage to continue the membership of another student representative into the Heritage Commission.

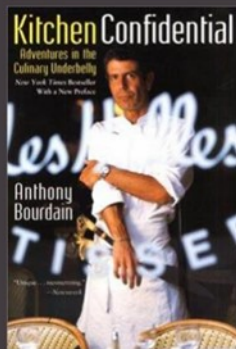
The Heritage Commission has glass suncatchers commemorating Belmont's 150th Anniversary year and another depicting the Bandstand. They are etched out on beautiful blue glass and are available for Christmas gifts. They can be purchased at the Belmont Library or by contacting the Heritage Commission at : events@belmontnh.org

Happy Holidays Belmont

From the Heritage Commission

The Heritage Commission will not be meeting during the month of December.

mask and mitten tree



Online Discussion December 10, 2020 1pm

Ebook and e-audio via Overdrive.
Some physical copies available.

Email the library for the meeting link.
circulation@belmontpubliclibrary.org

Early Closing

Thursday December 24 1pm

Thursday December 31 3pm

Library Closed

Friday December 25

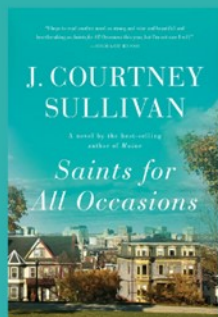
Friday January 1, 2021

December Take n' Make



Join the Friends

Ask at the circulation desk or visit the
Friends webpage <https://bit.ly/38Rr8MN>



ONLINE FICTION BOOK GROUP

DECEMBER 18 10:30AM

Ebook and e-audio copies
available through
nh.overdrive.com.
Contact the library for
physical copies.

Email the library for the meeting link
circulation@belmontpubliclibrary.org

Senior Center News

The Belmont Senior Center is no longer operating under the Community Action Program.

If you are interested in any of the other programs, all Belmont residents are welcome to go to:

Tilton Senior Center-11 Grange Rd., Tilton (5.2 miles) (603) 527-8291

- **Laconia Senior Center-17 Church St., Laconia (6.8 miles) (603) 524-7689**
- **TRIP-Franklin Senior Center-12 Rowell Dr., Franklin (9.5 miles) (603) 934-4151**

You may also call Concord with any questions at (603) 225-3295

Additionally, you may still call for bus transportation at (603) 225-1989 as usual.

Letter to the Editor

ROBERT KRAFT AND THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS FOUNDATION DONATE \$275,000 IN THE NAMES OF 2020 MYRA KRAFT COMMUNITY MVP AWARD WINNERS

Twenty-six New Englanders were honored by the Kraft family during a virtual ceremony on Oct. 30.

Colleen Garrity of Laconia, N.H. receives \$10,000 donation for the Belknap House.

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Every year since 1998, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots have been celebrating those who give their time to help others. The program was originally known as the Community Quarterback Awards and were presented to those who exemplify leadership, dedication and a commitment to improving their communities through volunteerism.

In 2011, the awards were renamed in honor of the late Myra Kraft who committed her life to volunteering. As part of the New England Patriots Foundation's ongoing Celebrate Volunteerism initiative, the Kraft family traditionally hosts a special ceremony at Gillette Stadium to celebrate the honorees.

On Friday, Oct. 30, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots hosted a virtual ceremony to celebrate 26 volunteers from all across New England. Twenty-five organizations received grants of \$10,000 in honor of their outstanding volunteers and one grand prize winner received a surprise \$25,000 donation.

Patriots Chairman and CEO Robert Kraft, New England Patriots Foundation President Joshua Kraft and Patriots and Pro Football Hall of Famer and Patriots Executive Director of Community Affairs Andre Tippett all participated in the virtual ceremony.

"This year has been incredibly challenging for so many families, but it has also been difficult for non-profits," said Robert Kraft. "They have been called upon to support more families than ever before, but have been unable to host their traditional fundraising events. Volunteers are the lifeblood of these charitable organizations and they have stepped up in a big way during this unprecedented time. We were honored to be able to meet 26 of these local heroes – albeit virtually – and to be able to shine a spotlight on their volunteer efforts."

Colleen Garrity was recognized as a 2020 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winner. In honor of his dedication to volunteering, the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation will make a \$10,000 donation to the nonprofit she founded, the Belknap House.

In response to a growing trend in her community, Colleen help found the Belknap House in 2014 as a temporary shelter for families experiencing homelessness.

Letter to the Editor (Cont.)

“When families find themselves homeless, children are negatively impacted, through no fault of their own,” said Colleen. “Seeing families with young children sleeping in cars and tents or walking the streets because they have no place to go, is heart breaking.”

“Families need places, such as, Belknap House to help them through their homeless crisis and to stabilize the family unit,” Colleen continued. “Belknap House strives to provide a warm and caring home for families to help them feel safe and secure.”

It started seasonally, helping to keep families warm during the cold winter months, but has since evolved to a year-round facility. Colleen volunteers more than 30 hours a week, actively serving families from 11 cities and towns.

“I am humbled to have been nominated and recognized for the Myra Kraft Community MVP award and thankful to the Kraft family and Patriots Foundation for making this possible,” said Colleen. “I have been blessed to be able to volunteer and spend my time doing what I love. Volunteering for nonprofits takes a village and I am honored to be part of that village.”

The 2020 Myra Kraft Community MVP winners range from 14 to 97 years old and represent every New England state. The selected nonprofits provide support for many causes, including education, foster care, homelessness, mental health, mentoring, military support and youth development.

The Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation received more than 250 applications this year from nonprofit organizations looking to recognize their outstanding volunteers. Nominations open each spring and the awards are open to all nonprofit organizations in the New England region. For more information on the Myra Kraft Community MVP Awards, please visit www.patriots.com/community.

On Friday, Oct. 30, Robert Kraft, Josh Kraft and Andre Tippett participated in a virtual ceremony honoring the 2020 Myra Kraft Community MVP Award winners. Twenty-six volunteers were recognized for their efforts at nonprofit organizations from all across New England.



Our Furry Friends



Meet Maxwell,

Maxwell is pictured at 10 weeks old. He is believed to be a border collie and beagle mix. He comes to Belmont from Arkansas and is enjoying NH life and his human siblings at the Rice house.



Want to make your pet the Talk of the Town? Just send a photo with a brief introduction to them to administration@belmontnh.org.