

Our Community Newsletter

BELMONT



Town Administrator's Monthly Report



December 2021

Help Wanted

The Town of Belmont is seeking two qualified individuals for the positions of Highway Department Truck Driver/Laborer reporting to the Public Works Director. The successful candidates will perform a variety of routine skilled and unskilled manual laboring duties. The position requires a NH CDL "B" license with airbrake endorsement. The individuals chosen for these positions must possess a willingness to work with others including the general public. High School Diploma or equivalent is required, experience with the operation of heavy trucks necessary. In addition, a Motor Vehicle Background check, and drug and alcohol screening will be required.

Please submit a letter of interest and application to the Public Works Director, 143 Main Street, PO Box 310, Belmont, NH 03220, position will remain open until filled. The Town of Belmont is an EOE.

2021 Road Construction

Construction is complete on Plummer Hill Road with the base coat of pavement applied. Crews may still be in the area completing any minor clean that was needed.

2022 Budget

The Budget Committee will begin deliberating the 2022 proposed budget on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the Tioga Meeting Room at the Belmont Mill. The Zoom link, ID and password are listed here and can be used for each of the committee's meetings throughout the months of November, December and early January. The Town's Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2022 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Belmont High School.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87839800953?pwd=MnFkUjZuMGJ3UkRjTjZySjlRUXFVdz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3980 0953

Passcode: 066217

2021 Tax Rate

The 2021 Tax Rate has been set for the Town of Belmont and bills were mailed on Friday, November 12th, with a due date of December 15, 2021. This year's rate increased by \$1.33 primarily due to the increased rate for the cost of education in Belmont. Shaker Regional School District's apportionment increased for Belmont taxpayers by \$1,030,382 from \$10,066,876 in 2020 to \$11,097,258 for 2021. The rate impact was an increase of \$1.28 per thousand.

The Town has consistently tried to maintain stability in its portion of the Tax Rate by balancing the need for services and the town's overall level of property assessment. Since 2007 we have seen a low of \$6.18 to a high in 2016 of \$9.55. This year's municipal rate is \$8.54 which is .20 cents higher than the 2020 rate, the increase can be attributed to the bond payment for the new police station, while the bond proceeds were distributed to the Town in December 2020, we did not make our first payment until 2021.

Town Administrator's News (Cont.)

The rate for Belmont's portion of the Belknap County assessment went down by .18 cents to \$1.10 and the State Education rate saw a slight increase of .03 cents to \$2.05. The Town's total tax rate for 2021 will be \$26.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value, i.e., a home valued at \$200,000 will see an increase of \$266.00 for 2021.



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.

	Town	Local	State	County
2019	\$7.98	\$13.89	\$1.89	\$1.25
2020	\$8.34	\$13.70	\$2.02	\$1.28
2021	\$8.54	\$14.98	\$2.05	\$1.10

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

Notice of Grant Awards & Availability

The Town has received notice that we will be receiving a grant in the amount of \$30,000 from ARPA for the purposes of completing an Asset Management program for the Town's Sewer Department. Work is underway to implement the grant. In addition, the Town received notice from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund that the community is eligible for \$638,400 in financial assistance from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for an Iron and Manganese Water Treatment Plant and we plan to include a warrant article for this project on the Town's 2022 meeting warrant. The Town has also applied to the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery for a grant from the Locality Equipment Purchase Program to assist with the purchase of a new rescue boat for the Belmont Fire Department.

Bulky Waste Disposal



Beginning Wednesday, September 2, 2020, and on the 1st Wednesday of each month following, 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.



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.

Town Administrator's News (Cont.)



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 will be closed on Friday, December 24, 2021 in observance of the Christmas Holiday and we will also be closed on Friday, December 31, 2021 in observance of New Years.





Our Community Newsletter

Town Clerk/Tax Collector News



Just a friendly reminder, the second issue tax bills are due on December 15, 2021. You may drop them in the mail, stop in and pay them or use our website www.belmontnh.org to pay them on line.



4th issue water and sewer bill will be generated this month as well. The fourth issue covers September, October and November. As with the tax bills, you may mail them, stop by and pay them or use our website to pay them online.



Did you know that you can get an estimate right online??? We are pleased to provide you with the ability to receive quick and convenient estimates for your vehicle registrations. You can utilize this by going to the www.belmontnh.org website. Once on the Town Home page, click on the box to the right that says Auto Registration, Dog License & Vital Records.

Click on the link and this will bring you to the EB GOV page. Scroll to the bottom of page and you will see the Registration Estimate link.



Fun Facts.... Did you know that The NH Department of Motor Vehicle issued 154,203 vanity plates this year?? Here in the Town of Belmont, we issued 931 vanity plates.



BFD Times



Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo

Police Department News

Belmont Police Department
Captain Steve Akerstrom



Santa's Little Helpers

The Belmont Police Department is delighted to offer our assistance to Belmont residents this Christmas for families that demonstrate a financial need for Christmas gifts. Santa's Little Helpers eligibility requirements are as follows:

1. Must be a current Belmont resident and have documentation proving your residency status (utility bill, lease / rental agreement, motor vehicle registration ETC.).
2. Must have photo identification.
3. Must *not* have obtained assistance from the Santa's Little Helpers program for more than three (3) years.
4. Children must be under 16 years of age.
5. Families *cannot* be receiving assistance from any other charitable organization providing Christmas gifts.

If your family meets the above listed criteria, we encourage you to fill out an application today. The Belmont Police Department and Santa's Little Helpers believe every child deserves to have a Merry Christmas and we are happy to help. Please see the important dates that are shown below:

1. Applications *deadline* is 12-10-2021
2. Gift *pick up* will be held on 12-17-2021 between 10:00am - 12:00pm and 4:00pm – 6:00pm at the Belmont Police Department. Detailed pick-up information will be provided at a later time.
3. For questions contact Dispatcher Nikki Wheeler at (603) 267-8351

As always if you have any questions for us, we can be reached at 603-267-8350





Winter reminders

With Winter approaching, we would like to remind everyone of a few ordinances that the town has, “snow obstruction and removal” and “parking”.

The snow obstruction and removal ordinance states:

No person shall put, place, or store or cause to be put, placed, or stored snow or ice which has been removed from private property onto any public road, sidewalk or parking area within the Town of Belmont

No person shall purposely or knowingly put or place, or cause to be put or placed, any snow, ice or other debris so as to cover a fire hydrant so as to make it inaccessible for immediate use in the event of a fire. For the purposes of this section “person” excludes agents of the state or any political subdivision engaged in the operation of snow removal from the traveled portion of any highway or the adjacent sidewalk or parking area.

No person shall put, place, or store or cause to be put, placed, or stored snow or ice within the travelled way of any Class V or Class VI public road, emergency lane, public sidewalk or public parking area within the Town of Belmont.

The Winter parking ordinance states:

There shall be no overnight parking of vehicles along any roadway between November 15 and April 30 of any year, inclusive.

If you have any questions, concerns, or want to report anything, we can be reached at 603-267-8350

Highway Department News

December brings the chance for winter weather and with it, the possibility for the DPW's fleet of trucks to hit the road. The Employees of the town would never intentionally damage anyone's property while taking part in winter maintenance operations however there is always potential. To mitigate some of these risks, you may see members of the crew out marking hazards with reflective delineation and whips. In most areas the Town of Belmont maintains a 25 foot right of way. The Right of way is utilized for snow storage as banks grow throughout the winter while still providing drainage for snow melt and sight distance at driveways and intersections. Now is a good time to remove anything from the Towns right of way that could be damaged, or cause damage to the departments fleet. Things like planters, Basketball Hoops, and lighting that can either be moved back or removed and any necessary adjustments to mailboxes should be made before the ground freezes. You can find some helpful tips for mailbox installation below that will help keep your mailbox safe this winter.

- USPS approved metal mailbox required
- Front of mailbox must be 2 feet from the edge of pavement
- Position your mailbox at a height of 46 inches from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox support
- House or Apt. number visible on both sides and front of mailbox
- Minimum 4 x 4 wooden support post
- Supporting post should be installed 2 feet below grade and a minimum of 4 feet from the edge of the pavement



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Before you dig, remember to call DigSafe

Not only is it safe, **IT'S THE LAW!**



Code Enforcement News

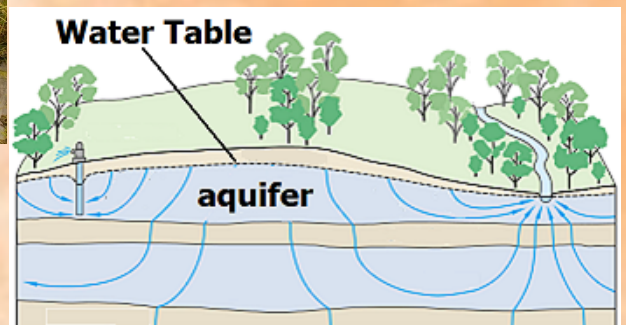


As a PSA reminder, please make sure you remember the following guidelines:

- If you have a lot of junk to get rid of and require a dumpster, be aware that Casella is not providing them any longer until further notice. There are other companies available in the Lakes Region that provide dumpsters. Some of them are free based on what you are putting into them!
- Before the snow begins to fall, do you have an older car/truck/boat that you want to get rid of? If it is 2000 model year or newer and you have a title, any of our local scrapping yards will be willing to remove them from your property. If it is older than 2000 model year no title is needed, and it is a simple call to arrange removal. If you need assistance in finding a local salvage yard, applying for a replacement title, or arranging removal of cars/boats/RV's, please contact me and I will assist you with this. It will be so much easier to get rid of these prior to winter vs your friendly code enforcement officer coming to talk to you in January or February.
- Belmont Business Owners. If I have reached out to you regarding our Aquafer Inspections, please get back in touch with me as soon as possible so we can schedule an inspection. If you are a business and are unsure if you should be part of the State's Aquafer Protection Program, give me a call. Based on what type of business you conduct I can guide you through it easily.

Mark Ekberg

Code Enforcement

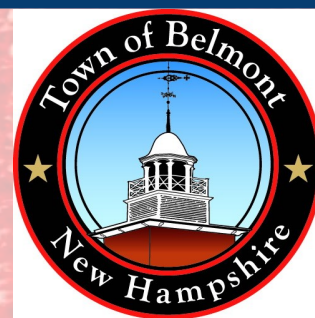


143 Main Street, P.O. Box 310, Belmont, NH 03220
codeenforcement@belmontnh.org
(603)267-8300x116 (603)267-8307(F)

Building Department News

from the

Building Inspector



The Building Department would like to take this time to remind you of some important permit information:

Property owners are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits for work including electrical, plumbing, mechanical/heat/AC/propane tanks, building, driveways, etc. PRIOR to any work being completed. Some contractors will apply for permits on behalf of property owners. Please ensure that you or your contractor obtain the required permits for any projects you undertake.

- All permits issued require inspections. Depending on your project, some of those inspections may include:
 - ⇒ Site Inspection
 - ⇒ Footing Inspection (when footings are formed and before concrete is poured)
 - ⇒ Foundation Inspection (when walls are formed and before concrete is poured)
 - ⇒ Foundation Drainage (when sealing and drainage is done and before backfilling)
 - ⇒ Structure (when framing, roof, windows and doors are installed)
 - ⇒ Rough-in (when plumbing, electric, and HVAC is done and before insulation)
 - ⇒ Insulation (before drywall/sheetrock is installed)
 - ⇒ Final (check completion, code and zoning compliance)

- Certificate of Occupancy/Use requires:
 - ◇ Driveway inspection
 - ◇ Building Inspection and Sign Offs
 - ◇ Street Number for 911
 - ◇ Septic Approval for Operation from NHDES
 - ◇ Municipal water/sewer approval from Town of Belmont if necessary
 - ◇ Planning and Zoning Board conditions must be met
 - ◇ Fire department permits/inspections of heating source/sprinklers if necessary
 - ◇ Any other agency/permit final approvals as applicable.



Russ Wheeler, Building Inspector

143 Main Street, P.O. Box 310, Belmont, NH 03220
buildingofficial@belmontnh.org
(603)267-8300x111(V) (603)267-8307(F)
www.belmontnh.org

Land Use Department News

in this issue >>>

- ARC – 11/18/21
- Planning Board – 11/22/21
- Zoning Board – 11/17/21



December
2021

A Monthly Insight into the happenings of Belmont Land Use

Land Use {

- ARC
- Planning
- Zoning

November Meetings >>>

Your Land Use Staff

Elaine Murphy
Administrative Assistant

Richard Ball
Land Use Technician

Colleen Akerman
Building & Land Use Clerk

Sarah Whearty
Town Planner

For additional Land Use Information:

Visit www.belmontnh.org
Contact landuse@belmontnh.org
Call 267-8300 x 119



Application Review Committee (11/18/2021)

John & Carolyn Carr, JCCO Holdings LLC: Review for Site Plan proposal, Contractor’s Yard (landscaping contractor). Property located in the Commercial Zone, 631 Laconia Road, Tax Lot 230-094-000-000. #18-21R

Next Meeting: December 16th, 2021, 8:00AM

Planning Board (11/22/2021)

Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – Winnisquam Yacht Club LLC: Request for site plan approval to construct two 23,980sf enclosed commercial interior boat storage buildings and one 12,240sf open-faced commercial interior boat storage building with associated site improvements. Property is located on Laconia Road, Tax Lot 224-014-000-000 in the “C & R” Zones. PB #1821P.

Next Meeting: December 27th, 2021, 6:00PM

Zoning Board of Adjustment (11/17/2021)

Abutters’ Hearing – Jennifer Bouchard for Sunset Beach Condominium: Continuation of a request for two Variances of Article 5 Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow a carport. Property is located at 72 Sunset Drive in an “RS” Zone, Tax Lot 107-150-000-002.

Abutters’ Hearing - Jeffrey & Heather Deardorff: Request for 3 Variances of Article 5 Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance to construct two additions to a preexisting nonconforming single-family structure. Property is located at 6 Rodin Road in an “RS” Zone, Tax Lot 111-055-000-000.

Next Meeting: December 16th, 2021, 8:00AM

December 2021

Library News

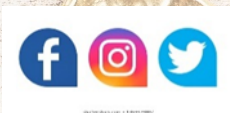
Library CLOSED
December 24 and 25
December 31
January 1

Holiday Crafternoon
December 3, 17 3-5pm

December Book Groups
The Man who invented Christmas
By Les Standiford
December 9 1pm
Mr. Dickens and his carol by Samantha Silva
December 17 10:30am

Join the Friends
Hybrid Meeting
Wednesday December 8

BYOBaby
Family friendly movie and snacks
December 15 noon



146 Main Street / Belmontpubliclibrary.org / 267-8331 / circulation@belmontpubliclibrary.org
Monday Friday 10-5 Tuesday Wednesday Thursday 10-6 Saturday 9-1

Belmont Heritage Commission

COMMUNITY HERITAGE AWARDS

The Belmont Heritage Commission along with the Board of Selectmen announce its annual Community Heritage Awards. First congratulations goes to a dedicated group of volunteers who accomplished a huge task saving and moving the Gale School to its new home. The efforts of this team of volunteers have accomplished a feat that is worthy of The Community Heritage Award for the "Preservation of Town History and Heritage." Perseverance is the first word on the award. Many other words could also fit. Patience, Persistence, Productive, Probability, and Problem Solving come to mind. This committee did what many deemed was impossible. The Save Our Gale School Committee became the heartbeat of those who held the Gale School close to their hearts.

This amazing feat of moving the old historic building will always be remembered because who will ever forget when the Gale School came delicately down a cut path, across Concord Street and then gently lowered onto its new spot. After 25 years the catalysts of the Save Our Gale School committee consisted of Woody Fogg, Gary Gilbert, Ken Knowlton, Robert & Lisa Lord, Diane Marden, Mark Padula, Brenda Paquette, and Earl Sweeney. Jim and Rick Geddis of Geddis Building Movers, Mark, Matt and Jeff Roberts, Joe and Amie Harbut, Kerry and Linda Clairmont and once again Robert and Lisa Lord also played important roles in the great task of moving the Gale School to its new home and without them it would not have been accomplished.

It is also with great pleasure to award the Regional Leadership and Outstanding Service to Town Meeting Tradition to Alvin Nix Jr. He's one of those unsung heroes who gives a quality to our town of dignity, calmness and respect. As the Town Moderator he has already given Belmont 14 years of service and we are here to thank him for his hard work. We look forward to many more years of his artful skill in making meetings run smoothly and effortlessly. He is the glue that holds the meetings together even after years of change. The role of moderator also includes election official. Knowing that Mr. Nix also helps to foresee the integrity of votes during election time certainly adds to the credibility and assurance that Belmont is in good hands. Al's easy going nature, sense of humor and straightforwardness adds to the great admiration we have for him as we honor Mr. Nix with this Community Heritage Award.

Belmont Heritage Commission

Vicki Donovan (Chair) **Claire Bickford** (Vice -Chair) **Priscilla Annis** (Secretary) **Sonny Patten** (Selectman)
Ben Rolfe **Jill Rolfe** **Jack Donovan** **Victoria Riberio** (B.H.S. Student Rep.)

Cemetery Trustees

News from the Belmont Cemetery Trustees

Did you recently purchase a home here in Belmont that has a cemetery or burial ground on the property? If so, Know the Law about new construction and excavation near that piece of your property!

NH RSA 289:3 Location

Paragraph III. New construction, excavation, or building in the area of a known burial site or within the boundaries of an established burial ground or cemetery shall comply with local zoning regulations concerning burial sites, burial grounds, cemeteries, whether or not such burial site or burial ground was properly recorded in the deed to the property. In the absence of such regulations, no new construction, excavation, or building shall be conducted within 25 feet of a known burial site or within 25 feet of the boundaries of an established burial ground or cemetery, whether or not such burial site or burial ground was properly recorded in the deed to the property, except when such construction, excavation, or building is necessary for the construction of an essential service, as approved by the governing body of a municipality in concurrence with the cemetery trustees, or in the case of a state highway, by the commissioner of the department of transportation in concurrence with the cemetery trustees.

The reason for this law is to protect individual's remains that may have been buried outside of the walls of the cemetery or burial ground. Folks such as slaves, witches, individuals deemed to be witches, and criminals, while in the past may not have been deemed to be "good enough" to be buried with everyone else, we are in a different world. They deserve to still maintain their final resting place. Violating the 25' setback risks digging up these individuals and disturbing that place.

When in doubt of the 25-foot setback please first reach out to the Cemetery Trustees or the Land Use Office here in Belmont.



Cemetery Maintenance Request for Proposals

The Town of Belmont Cemetery Trustees invites interested vendors to submit a proposal for the Yearly Caretaker Contract for 2022 season to include Spring and Fall clean up, trash removal, mowing & trimming, and up-keep and occasional emergency calls for 22 Cemeteries located in the Town of Belmont. The contract will run from May 1st till November 11th. All prices submitted shall be by lump sum and no additional compensation will be made by the Town unless authorized by the Cemetery Trustees and approved by the Board of Selectmen in advance of the work. The Town reserves the right to reject any and all proposals that are deemed not to be in the best interest of the Town.

All interested vendors may contact Sharon Ciampi, Cemetery Trustee at 603-581-9746 or email belcem2015@gmail.com to answer any questions, hand out specification sheets and to provide a tour of the cemeteries involved.

Final proposals shall be mailed to the Cemetery Trustees at PO Box 310, Belmont, New Hampshire 03220, no later than the close of business on Monday December 20, 2021.

Join Us in Our Mission

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



December 18, 2021



National Wreaths Across America Day

Join us at the monuments outside of the Library at
11:30 am for the ceremony. We will be laying
wreaths at 190 grave sites, starting at South Road.

All are Welcome!!

SAU 80 is seeking your input regarding the use of ARP ESSER funds

Shaker Regional School District has received an allocation of \$2,196,887.64 through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) which includes a third round of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) funds. The ARPA ESSER III funds can be used during the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years. Districts receiving these funds are required to set aside 20 percent of the allocation to address learning loss. If you have any suggestions, questions, and comments about how the district should use the ESSER funds that have been received, please send an email to srsd-essercomment@sau80.org or go to www.sau80.org to place your comments.

To learn more about the ARPA ESSER grant, please visit the NHDOE website at [ARPA ESSER III](#).



Newsletter

Do you know someone new to Town or know someone in Town who would love to see our Newsletter. Please have them email Alicia Jipson at administration@belmontnh.org to get on our distribution list. We also will occasionally send out other important information via email when necessary.



ZERO-SORT[®] RECYCLING

TOSS ALL CLEAN & EMPTY RECYCLABLES INTO THIS CONTAINER

CARDBOARD/PAPER



Corrugated Cardboard
(Wavy center layer)



Boxboard
(Dry-food boxes, egg cartons, & rolls)



Junk Mail, Periodicals, & Office Paper
(Paper bags, envelopes, & catalogs)

PLASTIC



Plastic Bottles, Jugs, Tubs, & Lids
(Empty kitchen, laundry, & bath containers)

METAL



Aluminum & Steel Cans
(Foil & empty food & beverage cans)

GLASS



Glass Bottles & Jars
(Empty food & beverage bottles & jars)

NOT ACCEPTED

Plastic bags, bagged recyclables, clothing/textiles, food waste/liquids, tanglers such as rope or hoses, scrap metal, batteries of any kind, electronics, wood, medical waste, hazardous materials, explosives, toys, hangers, shoes, waxy cups or plates, food bags or wrappers, plastic wrap or film, shrink wrap, tarps, diapers, human/pet or yard waste, tires or rubber, Styrofoam™, napkins, paper towels, tissues, plastic utensils, register tape, condiment packets, straws, stirrers, coffee pods, ceramics, or baking glass



For recycling tips and resources, visit casella.com/recyclebetter • 800-CASELLA



KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF ZERO-SORT™ RECYCLING

Place these items in the trash!



Gloves



Face Masks

For contamination purposes, if these items end up in recycling, it will all end up in the trash!



KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF ZERO-SORT™ RECYCLING

NO Compostable Products



*Place these items in the **Food Waste bin!***

If these items end up in recycling, it will all end up in the trash!