

Our Community Newsletter

BELMONT



Town Administrator's Monthly Report



Town Hall Functions and the

COVID-19 Virus

During these very difficult times we appreciate your patience and understanding while Town Hall is closed to the public and we all live under the government's recommendation to social distance and stay at home. As a result of the numerous orders issued by the Governor that relate to how we conduct business during these times, the Selectmen felt it was important to be fiscally responsible and to look closely at the reduction in workload resulting from the closures. They made the difficult decision to either partially or fully furlough some positions until business as usual can resume. Each of the employees affected by the furloughs are vital to the Town's ongoing efforts to provide service to the community and its residents. We look forward to reopening our buildings, departments and reuniting staff. Until we are able to do so, we do encourage everyone to "Stay at Home" and practice social distancing.

"This too shall pass."

The Town is continuing to review with its contract assessor the abatement applications submitted relative to the 2019 tax assessments, however their firm was closed and deemed non-essential so there will be a slight delay in getting responses out to those taxpayers affected. We anticipate that a response will be issued by the July 1 timeline so please if you did file an abatement, have patience and if you would call the Assessing Office prior to payment of your spring tax bill, we may be able to provide an update on the status of your assessment. We appreciate your understanding.

We do expect that Spring Tax bills will be in the mail by May 15th, with a due date of July 1, 2020.



The Board of Selectmen will be holding a Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2020 beginning at 10 a.m. This will be a virtual meeting held through the Zoom Application. Connection information is listed below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81200857231?pwd=R2x4YzU2Y09QOW5mV2taclJuU3Rkdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 0085 7231

Password: 734696

Or dial in at 1-929-205-6099, you will be asked to enter the Meeting ID and Password listed previously.

This will be our first virtual meeting so we do ask for your patience as we work through this new arrangement.

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.



Following is a link to a video developed by our recycling vendor to help us recycle better. Better recycling leads to lower costs for trash disposal as whatever we can remove from the trash stream reduces the tonnage we pay for. Your help is needed! www.bit.ly/recyclebetter

The Casella site on Route 140 is open on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 am to 12 noon to take your bulky and other non-trash items. Please check with the attendant regarding any fees due at the time of disposal.

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



Sunday, May 10, 2020



Stay at Home 2.0

UNIVERSAL GUIDELINES

On Friday April 30th, Governor Chris Sununu announced he is implementing a new, modified Stay-at-Home Order. Stay at Home 2.0 is in effect until May 31st. The state is taking steps to reopen the economy in a smart, phased approach that is supported by facts, science and data. To read in full detail the Universal Guidance and Industry Specific Guidelines access the links below.

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/press-2020/20200501-stay-at-home.htm>

Industries that can continue to operate with new, modified guidance:

[Public and Private Campgrounds Guidance](#)
[New Hampshire State Park Guidance](#)

[Manufacturing Guidance](#)

Industries that can begin to phase-in services on May 4, 2020:

[Certain Health Care Services Guidance](#)

Industries that begin to phase-in, or expand services on May 11, 2020:

[Retail Store Guidance](#)
[Drive-in Movie Theater Guidance](#)

[Public and Private Golf Course Guidance](#)

[Barbers and Hair Salon Guidance](#)

Industries that can begin to phase-in, or expand services on May 18, 2020:

[Restaurant Guidance](#)

Police Department News



Captain Richard Mann

Unfortunately, there has been an uptick nationwide in IRS and other phone scams. It is good time to go over some tips to keep from becoming a victim of a scam. The saying, *"If it's too good to be true, it probably is"* makes a lot of sense in this time in our lives.

There have been a number of scams to be aware of that have been reported in the area. Some of the more popular ones are *A younger family member calling you to claim they are in need of immediate bail to be sent via Western Union. A computer software caller claiming your computer is infected and is need of a virus update. They then lock you out and demand a ransom. The pastor or priest sends you an email or text telling you a parishioner's spouse has fallen ill and needs immediate assistance, gift card numbers are requested to help them out.*

Tax scams are also frequent problem.

The Do's

- Do hang up immediately if you are called by an "IRS agent" reporting that your social security number has been suspended. IRS sends their communication by mail if you owe money or have unpaid taxes.
- Do forward any unsolicited emails in which someone claims to be from the IRS or the Treasury Department to phishing@irs.gov. (*Do not click on any links or open attachments.*)
- Do consider filing a fraud alert or freezing your credit with the three major credit-reporting bureaus if a scammer knows part of your Social Security number.
- Do ask for identification if you are visited by someone claiming to be from the IRS. Actual employees carry two official credentials: a "pocket commission" and an HSPD-12 card, a standard ID for federal workers. An IRS employee will provide, on request, a dedicated agency phone number for you to verify the information on the card.
- Do call the police if you have any questions about an IRS action you find unusual or suspicious.



- Do call for police to help identify someone at your door asking to come in to discuss personal or tax information. (*Unless you were expecting them*)

The Don'ts

- Don't provide or confirm personal or financial information over the phone to someone who claims to be a government official.
- Don't respond to a purported IRS email or text message asking for your information. The IRS doesn't do that.
- Don't agree to pay a tax bill with a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. Scammers prefer these methods because they're difficult to trace and can be used almost anywhere.
- Don't give credit or debit card numbers to a caller claiming to be an IRS official. The IRS says it never asks for such information over the phone.
- Don't assume a caller who tells you to verify his or her phone number by checking the IRS website is on the level. Caller IDs can be rigged to display the number of a real IRS office.
- Don't be bullied. A scammer will issue threats and demands, but according to the IRS, if you actually owe back taxes, you will get a bill in the mail and have an opportunity to appeal or to question the amount.
- If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam, please call the police. The sooner you start addressing the matter, the quicker a plan of address can be put into place.



MAY

MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

Be Part of the Solution



**EVERYDAY
LOOK TWICE
SAFE A LIFE!**

**SAFETY IS
EVERYONE'S
RESPONSIBILITY!**

- BE MORE ALERT ON LEFT TURNS
- THERE IS A LIFE RIDING
- DISTRACTED DRIVING CAN KILL!

DO NOT!
Text While Driving



IT CAN WAIT!

4 Deadly Words:
"I didn't see them"





BFD Times

VIRTUAL EVENTS AT THE FIREHOUSE

Has COVID-19 got you down? Is being cooped up in the house driving you crazy? Are you and the kids starving for new and fun ways to stay occupied while stay at home orders are in effect? Belmont Fire Department has a few new virtual weekly events that are coming to you right in your own home.

Chronicles of Blaze the Bear

Belmont residents, WE ARE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT!!! Smokey Bear's friend Blaze the Bear is roaming out and about looking for families on the Belmont Bear Hunt. Blaze has been spotted all over Belmont! Follow Blaze the Bear on our Facebook page every Monday to see what his next adventure will be.

(FACEBOOK: #BELMONTNHBEARHUNT)



BFD's Virtual Storytime

Follow your favorite firefighters from Belmont Fire Department as we bring to your family, in the comfort of your own home, BFD's Virtual Storytime! Find a comfy blanket, grab your favorite teddy bear, and sit back as our firefighters read to your family some of our favorite childhood stories. Storytime videos will be posted every Wednesday at 6pm on our Facebook page. If you can't make the story time, don't stress! The recordings will stay on our page so you can go view them at a later time, or revisit your favorite stories again and again and again.

(FACEBOOK: #BFDSVIRTUALSTORYTIME)

Turning Up the Heat Firehouse Cooking at Belmont Fire

Join members of the department once a week for a tutorial on how to cook a firehouse feast! Everyone has heard about the cooking that goes on in firehouses. We are a family here, and we cook together like a family and eat together like a family. Experience some simple yet hearty meals with our firehouse cooking tutorials posted every Friday on our Facebook page.

(FACEBOOK: #TURNINGUPTHEHEATBFDSTYLE)

We hope these fun videos ease the weight of the world on your shoulders, and brings a little joy to your family throughout the week during these hard and unprecedented times.

Say Healthy! Stay Safe! Stay Positive!
Your Friends and Belmont Fire

Highway Department News



Don't Blow It! RAKE IT AND RECYCLE IT



Yard waste and trimmings - including grass, leaves, tree, and brush trimmings - account for nearly 20% of all trash collected. Nationally, this averages 31 million tons of waste each year!

Keep Yard Waste Out of Rivers, Lakes & Streams

Yard waste and debris can clog culverts, storm drains, and pipes, which can cause flooding.

Piles of leaves and grass clippings can overload a waterway with nutrients, contributing to algae blooms. These blooms can harm fish and cause toxin pollution affecting recreation areas.

What Can You Do?

 **Go Native!**

 **Compost/Mulch**

 **Recycle**



PROTECT OUR WATERS



You can celebrate Earth Day—all year long—by keeping our roadsides trash-free. Please dispose of your garbage appropriately. Recycle and compost whatever you can and place the remainder in trash cans or dumpsters. Or, you can walk out the front door of your home or business towards the next street or even the next driveway—trash bag in tow—and hold your own “socially-distanced” pick-up. We all have the power to make difference in our communities. If you would like to help out in the community trash bags are available at the Highway Garage on Hurricane Road. Just call ahead to schedule a time to pick up. DPW will pick up the bags if left on the side of the road.



Tips for Proper Leaf Disposal

MULCH

Finely chopped leaves make for an excellent lawn fertilizer. Mulch leaves by running over them with your mower during the next cutting, and leave the remains on the lawn. You can also spread the mulch across flower and vegetable beds.



COMPOST

Composting leaves is a great way to create nutrient-rich soil. In a mixed pile, create a 2-to-1 ratio of dead leaves to grass clippings. Spreading leaves over food scraps will soak up moisture and help contain odors as well.



PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

Avoid raking leaves into or nearby storm drains, ditches, creeks, or rivers. In addition to clogging the drains, decaying leaves use up the water's oxygen, harming aquatic inhabitants.



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



Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission

Tick Bite Facts

Avoiding Tick Bites

- Stay on trails outdoors; avoid areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses.
- Wear light-colored clothing so ticks can be easily seen.
- Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, closed toe shoes with socks, and a hat. Tuck your pants into your socks and your shirt into your pants.
- Check yourself, your children, and your pets often for ticks, shower after returning indoors.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET or permethrin (always follow directions).
- After returning indoors, run clothes in the dryer on high heat to kill any ticks that may be on the clothing.



Tick-borne diseases are transmitted to people and animals when they are bitten by an infected tick. The longer an attached tick is allowed to feed, the greater the chance the tick will transmit the organisms that cause tick-borne diseases. Therefore, it is important to take steps to avoid being bitten by ticks and to remove any attached ticks promptly. This fact sheet contains some tips on how to avoid being bitten by ticks, how to do a tick check, and how to properly remove an attached tick.

How to Do a Tick Check

Black-legged ticks are very small, and a tick might look like a freckle or speck of dirt on a person's skin. Ticks often like to bite in warm, dark, secluded areas of the body. It is important to check your clothing for ticks while you are outside, and do a whole body tick check at least once a day. Pay close attention to: hairline and scalp, in and around ears, underarms, elbows, backs of the knees, between fingers and toes, belly button, groin area, and areas where clothing presses against your skin (for example: waistbands, collars, cuffs, watchbands). Don't forget to check your pets as well! Remove any attached ticks promptly.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health Services
Bureau of Infectious Disease Control
www.dhhs.nh.gov 603-271-4496

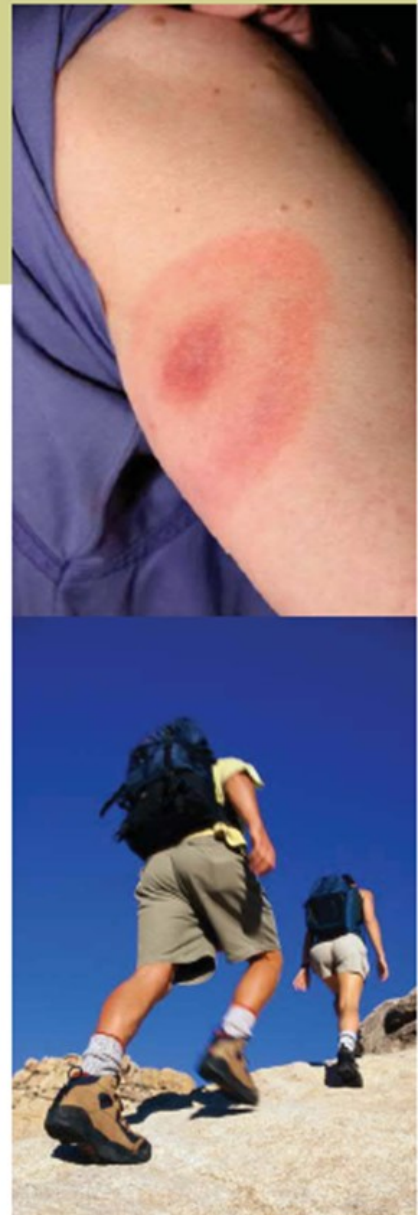
Conservation Commission (Cont.)

Removing an Attached Tick

- **DO** remove the tick promptly. The sooner you remove it, the less chance of infection.
- **DO** use tweezers to grasp the tick's mouthparts at the surface of the skin.
- **DO** gently pull the tick straight out with a steady motion.
- **DO** wipe the bite area with an antiseptic, or wash with soap and water.
- **DO NOT** remove an attached tick using any of the methods listed below. These may actually increase your chances of becoming infected with a tick borne disease:
 - **DO NOT** squeeze the tick.
 - **DO NOT** rub petroleum jelly on the tick.
 - **DO NOT** use a hot match or cigarette.
 - **DO NOT** pour kerosene or nail polish on the tick.

Is it a tick bite?

- Spider bite: Several fluid-filled bumps appear at the site of the bite.
- Tick bite: The bite may be hard, itchy, and may be reddish and form into lumps. In many people infected with Lyme disease, a red, circular, spreading rash develops at the site of the tick bite. This is often known as a "bulls eye rash" because some clearing often develops in the center of the circular rash, resembling a bulls eye.
- A rash is not a symptom of all tick-borne diseases, and not all people infected with Lyme disease develop rashes. It is important to speak to your physician or primary care provider if you have any concerns following a tick bite or if you experience any symptoms of disease.



Planning and Zoning Committee News



Planning and Zoning News

Star Wars Day

May 4

Application Review Committee (4/16/20)

MEETING POSTPONED / NEXT MEETING: MAY 21, 2020, 8:00 AM

Planning Board (4/27/20)

MEETING POSTPONED / NEXT MEETING: MAY 18, 2020, 6:00 PM

Zoning Board of Adjustment (4/22/20)

MEETING POSTPONED / NEXT MEETING: MAY 27, 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 (8:00 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 603.267.8300X119 or emailing landuse@belmontnh.org.

[Click here for additional information regarding the temporary closure of Town Hall.](#)

Interested in Volunteering? COVID-19 Response

Medical volunteers, such as retired or furloughed doctors and nurses, can sign up at <https://nhresponds.org/> to help provide resources as the state's medical systems become taxed. Officials say that nonmedical volunteers can also sign up, because services such as transportation or security will also be needed.

If you are interested in other volunteer opportunities to support NH communities during the COVID-19 response, please create an account with Get Connected and select that, "Yes," you are interested in volunteering in response to COVID-19:

<https://volunteernh.galaxydigital.com/user/register/>

Existing Get Connected users can respond here:

https://volunteernh.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=509677



For Additional Land Use Information:

Visit www.belmontnh.org • Contact LandUse@BelmontNH.org • Call 267-8300 x 119

Library News

**May 2020**

Currently closed to the public until further notice.

146 Main Street – Belmontpubliclibrary.org – (603) 267-8331

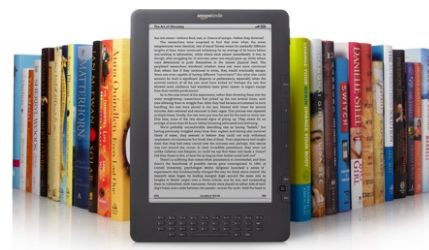
The library is still here for you, even if we're working from home. Email us if you have questions, at circulation@belmontpubliclibrary.org or message us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). Also check out our social media for storytime videos and updates about library services. All library due dates have been extended through the end of the governor's stay at home order. Please hold on to your items until then.

Need a Card?

If you, or someone you know in town, need a new or renewed library card to access our digital services, [the link is on our website](#) or email us. Staff are activating new library cards for Belmont residents. This is particularly useful to students who now need to do more work from home. It is also a great asset for adults who have never had a card before and would like to access online services, such as free digital magazines, books, newspapers, and media.

Read/Listen/Watch NEW SERVICE

[Hoopla](#) is a groundbreaking digital media service offered by your local public library that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! With no waiting, titles can be streamed immediately, or downloaded to phones or tablets for offline enjoyment later.

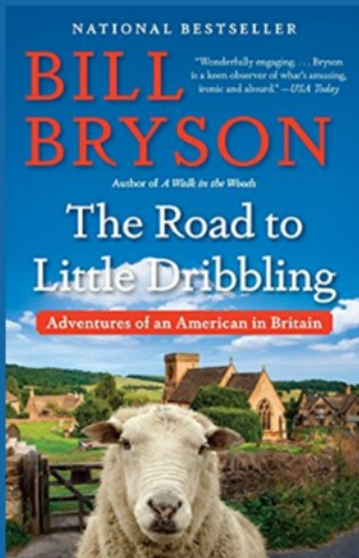


Library News (Cont.)

Stream or download ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines through [NH Downloadable Books](#) with your library card. The Libby app is easy to use.

We have temporary access to [Tumblebooks](#), which provides downloadable books and audiobooks for all ages. Check out [our website](#) for the links that provide you access. There's even a math app for younger students.

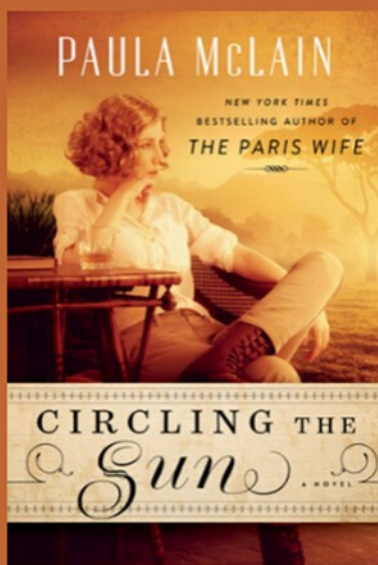
Join a Digital Book Group



ONLINE NON-FICTION BOOK GROUP MAY 14 1PM

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

Copies available
through
nhoverdrive.com



ONLINE FICTION BOOK GROUP

MAY 15 10:30AM

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

Copies available
through
nhoverdrive.com

Senior Center News

NOTICE

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

BELMONT'S GALE SCHOOL ROLLING !!

The "Save Our Gale School" (SOGS) group is moving forward and gives an update on their success in preserving the historically significant and architecturally unique Gale School in Belmont. The Gale School is a true landmark. They just don't build 'em like that anymore - and now it is saved. SOGS Chair Diane Marden said, "At long last, we did it! We still need some more donations to do it all, but the Gale School is saved !!"

Thanks to many generous grants and donations of money, materials and services, SOGS has raised enough money to move the Gale School from its present site behind the Belmont Middle School to a lot on Concord Street generously donated to the project.

In order to get the building from its current location to Concord Street, they are moving it over a temporary road through woods, down a hillside and then along and across Concord Street to its new home. Landowners effected by this move have generously agreed to allow SOGS to build the road and move the building across their properties.

The path has already been cut by Canterbury Timber at an exceptional discount. This road will be stumped and constructed by Leslie E Roberts, LLC (Mark Roberts and his sons), also at a discount. Geddes Building Movers specializes in moving historic buildings and will move the Gale School **in one piece** to the new location, also at a very generous discount. This move will be an incredible undertaking!

Everything is in place for the move, which is expected to take place in July. Now SOGS is concentrating on raising enough additional funds and donated services and materials to construct a concrete

foundation on the donated lot. That is the only missing piece.

SOGS could still make good use of donations of services and materials - particularly gravel, stone, paving, fencing, landscaping, utility relocations and concrete work - as well, as those donations would free up more funds for the foundation.

To briefly review SOGS' progress to date:

It made no sense to save the Gale School just to have it sit somewhere. SOGS had to find someone who would take it over and put it to good use. They

have found a perfect partner in Lakes Region Community Developers (LRCD - formerly the Laconia Area Land Trust) - a local non-profit with an impeccable track record.

Once the move is accomplished, the Gale School and lot will be transferred to LRCD, who will historically restore and re-purpose

the building. They are currently looking into several possible uses-- for programs that will benefit low and moderate-income working families and individuals in the Lakes Region by offering social services currently insufficient or unavailable in the area.

SOGS has also had great support from the Shaker Regional School District, which agreed to contribute the \$70,000 that was originally budgeted for demolition of the Gale School toward the cost of moving the building off District property and has cooperated in every way they could to facilitate the success of this project. The Town of Belmont has also been very cooperative, without committing any taxpayer funds.



Letter to the Editor (Cont.)

SOGS applied for a grant from the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (also known as LCHIP), resulting in an award in February 2019 of \$110,000. SOGS also was awarded grants through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation from:

-- The Christopher P Williams Fund in the amount of \$2,500

-- The Juliet E. Peverley Fund in the amount of \$5,000;

-- The Jeff Taylor Bean Pots to Bell Towers Fund in the amount of \$5,000.

Belmont's Sargent Fund has awarded \$2,627 toward this project and the Belmont Heritage Commission awarded a \$2,500 grant. Most recently, the 1772 Foundation awarded a \$10,000 Historic Preservation Matching Grant through the NH Preservation Alliance. Local citizens and businesses have donated a total of over \$11,000 in cash as well as services, materials, and the new lot itself!

Members of SOGS have also donated time, their own money and services, to include preparing the Gale School for the move and performing the site work on the new lot, all totaling over \$116,000, and hundreds of hours in pulling all this together.

All these contributions and arrangements total over \$330,000, bringing the project well within reach of full completion. The Gale School will move to a lot and be ready for restoration. However, it should not sit on cribbing for very long and construction of a solid concrete foundation would finalize SOGS' effort of nearly thirty years. This project shows how volunteers and community support can accomplish good things.

These dedicated volunteers have put tremendous effort and caring into this for a long time but say they still could use just a little more help, especially from local banks, individuals and businesses. SOGS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation registered with the IRS and the State of NH and is seeking public cash donations and pledges of any size or in-kind services, materials, auction/raffle items and/or labor to go toward the approximately



Photo of swath cut through woods on which Gale School will be moved from its current location downhill to Concord Street.

\$40,000 in cash and services remaining to be raised to fully complete this project. ANY assistance would be greatly appreciated, and donations are tax deductible.

Checks can be sent to Save Our Gale School, c/o Brenda Paquette, Treasurer, 229 Dutile Road, Belmont, NH 03220. Businesses wishing to donate, or discount materials or services can contact Ken Knowlton, Vice Chairman/SOGS, at 848-2216 or Woody Fogg at 524-8268.

Our Furry Friends



Meet Arthur, a five-month old Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. He lives with Rick Ball, Belmont's Land Use Tech and Judy Ball, a former Teacher & current Title I Reading Assistant at Belmont Elementary School. Arthur is full of life, loves meeting people and other dogs, and can usually be coaxed into going for a walk or hike. He is a true terrier, though, and certainly is sometimes a bit obstinate! He is Rick and Judy's first dog and he has totally captured their hearts!



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