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.

The Town has issued a Request for Qualifications for a Construction Management firm to oversee the construction of the new Police Station, those submittals are due to the Town on April 22nd.

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 its presence in the Lakes Region; we urge you to check out their website at http://lrpa.org.



Happy Easter

Town Clerk's News

Greetings and salutations!!

As we all know the Covid-19 Virus has wreaked havoc on our lives over the past few weeks. In an effort to take every precaution to help slow the spread of the virus Town Hall has been closed to the public until further notice since March 18, 2020. We are trying our best to continue to provide our best customer service to residents during this trying time.

The 2020 first issue water/sewer bills are due April 9, 2020. There are a few options to pay other than coming in to Town Hall. Residents can mail their payment stub along with a check or money order in, or you can submit your payment on our Town's website, www.belmontnh.org. There has also been a slot installed in our front door that you can slip your payment into. We are not accepting cash payments at this time. We understand that a lot of households are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic and will not be charging interest on the first issue water/sewer bills for 2020.

Another big concern of our residents is auto registration. If you are in need of a renewal of your registration for the year, you can go on our town website and complete the renewal transaction, we will process the registration and mail your new tags to you. If you are unable to access our Town's website, you can give us a call, let us know what your license plate number is, we will give you the amount your registration will cost and you can mail in a copy of your registration along with a check in the specified amount made payable to the Town of Belmont as well as a self-addressed stamped envelope for us to mail your new tags to you or you can slip the same information in the drop-box slot in our front door and we will mail your renewed registration to you.

If you have bought a new car, the State of New Hampshire has extended all temporary plates issued after February 26, 2020 until May 4th. You do not need to take any action at this time. If you have bought a car private sale and don't need to put it on the road right away we ask for your patience and to come in and complete the transaction when we re-open to the public. If you need to get a 20-day plate call the DMV at (603) 227-4000 to make an appointment. Please copy and paste this link for the DMV press release https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/dmv/news-events/2020/20200318-dmv-transitioning-to-appointments.htm If it is IMPERATIVE that you register a car bought private sale, and you can't get a 20-day plate from the DMV please call our office (603) 267-8300 Ext 2 and we will walk you through the process.

Resident questions can and will be answered via phone or email. We already offer the ability to conduct many resident transactions online, including vehicle registration renewals, and the payment of taxes, water and sewer bills. Our Town Hall employees will be working on-site and we will continue to be at your service during normal business hours (7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday).

We understand the frustration of dealing with these new precautions and procedures and strive to offer the same level of service as we do on a normal basis. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Town Hall (603) 267-8300.

We, as a community will get through this trying time, be safe and be well.

Land Use & Building Inspector's Page

The Town of Belmont stands committed to the continued health and optimal safety of our residents as well as our employees, and we intend to do our part to "flatten the curve" of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you all already know Town Hall will be closed to the public until further notice.

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 normal 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.

To initiate Building Permits, Land Use and Driveway Permits visit the Town's Website at www.belmontnh.org for the full details and instructions and additional links.





Police Department News

Dear Belmont Residents,

We hope this letter finds you well and dealing with the "temporary isolation we all feel."

In the interest of health and well-being, we have made a few adjustments to our service to ensure we are maximizing health protocols.

- ♦ The front door to the station is locked but if you ring our phone box next to the front door, we can assist you.
- ♦ There is very limited access to the station to maintain a healthy workplace.
- If officer contact is necessary, we will maintain a six-foot distance in our front parking area.
- There will be an increase in questions posed to callers who request police come to a residence.
- In order to assist you for non-urgent circumstances we may suggest phone or email communication be used to address your concern.
- If police are sent to your residence you will be requested to meet outdoors while recognizing a six-foot distance.

We are trying hard to be accessible for you and at the same time we are also using CDC safety precautions as we serve our residents.

Thank you, BPD



Police Department News (Cont.)



COVID-19 AVOIDING SCAMS

Scammers may take advantage of COVID-19 outbreak fears by selling bogus "treatments" and "prevention" products, establishing fake charities, and sending seemingly legitimate emails with malicious links or attachments.



BEWARE OF FALSE CLAIMS

Do not be tempted by claims and advice on social media or websites that a product or treatment can cure or prevent COVID-19.

Currently, there are no prescription or over-the-counter pills, vaccines, oils, lotions, or other products available to treat or cure COVID-19. Always check with your health care provider before buying such products.

BE CAREFUL WHEN MAKING DONATIONS

Before making donations to support those who are ill or suffering financially because of the COVID-19 outbreak, DO YOUR HOMEWORK:

- If the appeal claims to be from a charity, make sure that it is registered with the Attorney General's Charitable Trusts Unit.
 The list may be found here: www.doj.nh.gov/charitable-trusts/
- If the appeal is for an individual, think hard about donating unless you know the person needing help and that person's circumstances;
- Do not let anyone rush you into making a donation;
- Check that you are dealing with a legitimate charity or individual and not an "imposter" with a deceptively similar name;
- Do not assume that social media recommendations for donations are legitimate.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR PHONY CDC EMAILS

Be careful about opening emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or from others claiming to have information about COVID-19. Clicking on links or attachments could cause a computer virus to infect your device.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT SCAMS OR FRAUD

Contact 1-888-468-4454 or DOJ-CPB@doj.nh.gov Visit the NH Department of Justice website: www.doj.nh.gov

STAY INFORMED

Visit <u>nh.gov/covid19</u> for up-to-date information about the COVID-19 outbreak in New Hampshire.





Fire Department News



BFD Times

COVID-19

We realize that these are difficult and uncertain times for everyone right now. This is something none of us have seen before. Rest assured, we are still here for all of your fire and medical needs.

We are sure that by this time, you have heard of some of the changes that we have put into effect at the fire station. The first change is that we have closed our lobby to the public. Despite the fact that you can no longer come into the building, our administrative staff is still here Monday through Friday via phone and email to work with you on permitting, record requests, billing, etc.

Burn Permits are still being issued. At this time, Belmont does not offer online permitting. If you are looking to obtain a burn permit, please call the station at 603-267-8333. Our staff will take all of your information and email you the permit for this year only. If you do not have an email to send the permit to, we will place it in our new fire permit mailbox located outside the front lobby. Please take into consideration that because so many people are staying at home (which we all greatly appreciate!), the volume of phone calls for burn permits has increased significantly, and the process has changed for us to be able to issue permits to our residents at this time. Please be patient with us as we work on getting all of them issued in a timely fashion.

Fire Department News (Cont.)

Our department is still here for your emergency needs. 9-1-1 is asking additional questions when emergencies are called in, and our department members are wearing PPE (face masks, gloves, safety glasses, etc.) to calls. These measures are to not only protect our crews, but to also protect our patients.

We understand that everyone is getting spring fever, and staying at home is not ideal. These are a few tips to remember as we all weather COVID-19 together.

- Stay at home when you are sick and avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Call your doctor first if you need medical assistant and/or have any concerns.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a 60% or greater alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Clean and disinfect frequently used objects and surfaces at home and in your workplace.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Temporarily replace the handshake, hugs and/or physical contact with a friendly wave.

We will get through this pandemic, but we all need to do our part. Our crews are working hard to meet your emergency needs. For COVID-19 questions and concerns, please call 2-1-1 to reach 211NH (a coordinated and centralized resource to support NH residents with questions 24/7). For your emergency needs, call 9-1-1.

Stay Safe! Stay Healthy! Stay Home!
Your Friends at Belmont Fire

Highway Department News

NOTICE: Due to the Covid-19 outbreak the DPW office and garage is CLOSED to the general public until further notice. Deliveries may still be made and left outside the building at the table provided. Please make us aware of any items being delivered.

Road Weight Limit in effect March 6th Until Further Notice:

Each spring the Town of Belmont posts all Town roads to a maximum weight limit of 6 tons during the spring thaw per RSA 231:190-191.

Local roads are especially vulnerable to damage in the spring due to the water freeze-thaw cycle. Imposing temporary weight limits can help to protect the roads during this time. Contractors, construction companies, parcel services, fuel services and solid waste haulers are asked to observe the posting by staying off soft road shoulders and reducing load weights.

Special permission may be given for "practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship" depending upon weather conditions and time of day. However, <u>Prior approval is required</u> and a bond for the cost of restoring the road may also be required for any exceptions.

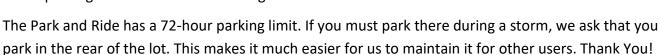
The following vehicles are exempt: firefighting equipment, winter maintenance equipment that is owned, leased or rented by state or any political subdivision of the state, and farm equipment. Violators may be charged with a "violation" under RSA 231:191,VI resulting in a fine of up to \$1,000 along with restitution for damages and civil liability. Call the Public Works Department at 603-528-2677 with any questions.



Please take note of the frost heaves signs we have placed throughout the town. Frost heaves can pop up anytime this time of year. We try to warn motorist of the ones we feel are the worst but cannot mark them all.

Parking Ban

A Parking ban will be in effect starting November 15th until April 15th— overnight on street parking will not be allowed during this time.





Highway Department News (Cont.)

ROADSIDE TRASH PICKUP

Each year trash bags are available at the Highway garage for people interested in organizing local neighborhood trash pickup. If you or your organization would like to get bags, they can be picked up during normal business hours.

Highway Department employees, with help from the Belknap County Department of Correction, have picked up over 400 bags of roadside trash so far this year. Please be mindful of our efforts and try not to use our roadsides as a trash can!





CONSTRUCTION SEASON IS ALWAYS UPON US

Your DPW crew takes pride in maintaining our roadways to be as safe as possible. Please remember in order for them to do their job, right of way should always be given as with any emergency vehicle. It's always wise to slow down, leave a little early and arrive to your destination safely. We thank you all for your cooperation!



Please drive cautiously (SLOW DOWN) as our crews will be out working as well as many private contractors in the area. Take note of all signage and slow down when entering a work zone. Remember to stay off your cell phone. The safety and lives of the many construction workers trying to improve your roads depends on it!!

DRIVEWAY CULVERT MAINTENANCE

Driveway culvert maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner. Not only should you keep your culvert free from debris, it is recommended that snow should not be piled up to obstruct the flow of water. This can contribute to flooding and water washing out your driveway along with entering the road which can cause a hazard to motorists.



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

National Volunteer Week
April 19-25

WELCOME NEW BUSINESSES!

The Land Use office welcomes Phoenix Tattoo to 171 Daniel Webster Highway and NH Worktrucks to 126 Daniel Webster Highway. We thank you for choosing Belmont and we look forward to working with you!

Application Review Committee (3/26/20)

MEETING POSTPONED / NEXT MEETING: APRIL 16, 2020, 8:00 AM

Planning Board (3/23/20)

MEETING POSTPONED / NEXT MEETING: APRIL 27, 2020, 6:00 PM

Zoning Board of Adjustment (3/25/20)

NO CASES IN MARCH / NEXT MEETING: APRIL 22, 2020, 6:00 PM

ELECTIONS

The Planning Board welcomes returning member, and current Chairman, Peter Harris and new Board Member Richard Pickwick, who previously served as an alternate member. The Zoning Board welcomes returning members Norma Patten (current Vice Chair) and Peter Harris (current Chairman).

The Planning Board and the Land Use Office extend gratitude to Kevin Sturgeon for his service on the Planning Board. Although we support Kevin's decision to temporarily step away after 3 years on the Board, we look forward to his continued involvement in community matters. The Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Land Use Office extend gratitude to Marshall Ford for his service on the ZBA. During his 12 years on the Board, Marshall was always just a phone call away whenever he was needed and we wish him the very best.

Please remember that both the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment need alternate members. It's one meeting a month and we provide a great deal of ongoing education and support for our members. Alternate members are appointed by the members of the Board on which they will serve

Want to learn more? Just call Dari Sassan, Town Planner, at 267-8300 x 113

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



April 2020

Currently closed to the public until further notice.

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

These are uncertain times, and anxiety levels are understandably high. Kids are out of school, and many adults are home from work or working from home. Life is a bit, well, unusual.

We librarians are still here for you, even if we're working from home. Email us if you have questions, at <u>circulation@belmontpubliclibrary.org</u> or message us on <u>Facebook</u> or <u>Twitter</u>. All library due dates have been extended through May 4. 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 in need. 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 with online services

Stream or download ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines through <u>NH Downloadable Books</u> with your library card. The Libby app is easy to use.

We have temporary access to <u>Tumblebooks</u>, which provides downloadable books and audiobooks for all ages. Check out <u>our website</u> for the links that provide you access. There's even a math app for younger students.

We're working on subscribing to hoopla, 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. We will let you know this service is available on the library's website and social media. Look for the announcement soon.

Book Groups are still active

Join us remotely to discuss. Please <u>email the library</u> to be included in the group. Copies are available through our digital resources.

April 9 1pm *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou. It covers the rise and fall of the firm Theranos, the multibillion-dollar biotech startup headed by Elizabeth Holmes.

April 17 10:30am *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler. Tyler's story encompasses three generations of the Whitshank family, wandering back and forth over 7 decades of the 20th century. As in many of her previous novels, Tyler explores the resentments that develop and fester between siblings, spouses, and in parent-child connections—as well as their affectionate bonds.

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.



American Legion Post 58

American Legion Post 58 Belmont provides cash support to Camp Resilience

Laconia Daily Sun March 20, 2020

Belmont American Legion Post 58 presented a \$500 check to support Camp Resilience. The Patriot Resilient Leader Institute, which operates Camp Resilience, based in Laconia, NH, provides sustained, comprehensive programs to help wounded warriors recover their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Camp Resilience uses the scenic beauty of the Lakes Region of New Hampshire as its home base, and operates sports, adventure activities, and life skills programs for wounded veterans.

"The American Legion Post 58 is very pleased to provide yearly financial support to this outstanding organization that truly makes a positive impact on our wounded veterans," said Vice Commander Russell Fabian. The American Legion was created in 1919 by an act of the US Congress and its key purpose is to provide this type of support to American veterans from all wars, recently redefined by Congress as a continuous state of war since WWII.

For more information on Camp Resilience visit the following sites: https://www.camp-resilience.org,



Belmont Post 58, Chaplin, PA Belmont, NH 03220 Cell 253 709-1414

Letter to the Editor

News from Belknap House:

Belknap House staff has been laser focused on providing a safe, healthy, and calm environment for our families during these past few weeks. From remote learning to child-care, parents are busily engaged and appreciate the support of staff during this new regime. The eight children in the house, ages 8 months old to 13 years old, bring action, laughs and surprises to daily life. *Belknap House COVID 19 Procedures and Protocols*, aligned with CDC guidelines, and are a critical part of daily life as well. The March snow melting allows more fun on the outdoor play-set, chalk art on the driveway, and shooting hoops.

In response to the Governor's "Stay at Home" order, have suspend accepting donations of clothing and toys, etc. Household supplies, diapers and food items will be accepted and are appreciated at this time. We ask that those items be left outside our door, or you may call for pick-up outside your home, at 527-8097.

The network of committed local agencies, and community resources serving Belknap House are impressive. These partnerships are essential in the work we provide to help move families forward and continue remotely. Belknap House board members, staff and families, send heartfelt gratitude to all of our community partners, as our successes are not possible without them. Thank you for your dedication. All of us at Belknap House send that same devoted care back to you and your families at this time. Stay safe, stay well!

Be sure to like us on Facebook for up to date Belknap House happenings!

Gratefully yours,

Paula Ferenc

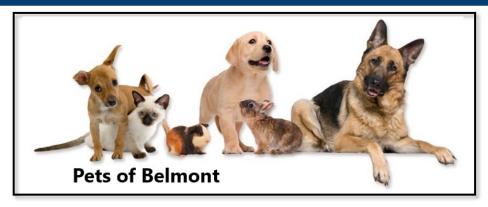
Executive Director, Belknap House

DONATE: www.belknaphouse.org





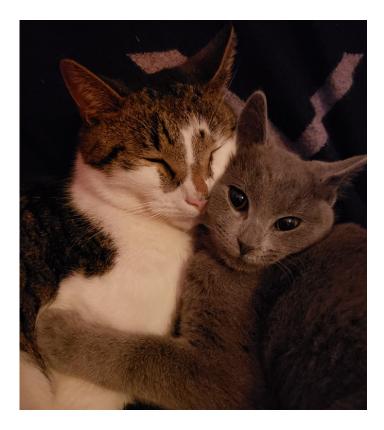
Our Furry Friends



Ellis the white & grey cat was a rescue stray in 2018. Shadow the grey kitty is a feral barn cat we took home from upstate NY in November from a Dairy Farm. Ellis took an immediate liking to his new adopted brother and the pair are inseparable. Big brother Ellis enjoys having little shadow around and the two are always found cuddled up sleeping together.

Ellis and Shadow reside at the Fraser residence.





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