Our Community Newsletter

BELMONT

Important Upcoming Dates

- Budget Hearing 01/07/2025 6:30pm
- Petitioned Warrant Articles are due to the Board of Selectmen by 01/14/2025.
- Candidacy Filing Period Opens 01/22/2025
- Candidacy Filing Period Ends 5pm 01/31/2025
- Town Meeting Deliberative Session 02/01/2025
- School District Meeting Deliberative Session 02/06/2025
- Abatement Applications for 2024 property taxes due 03/01/2025



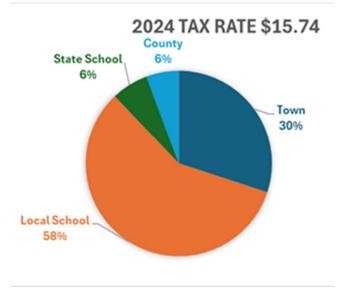
TOWN HALL will be closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025

2024 Tax Rate

The Town of Belmont's 2024 tax rate was set in coordination with the Department of Revenue Administration. This year's total tax rate has been set at **\$ 15.74** which breaks down as follows:

Town	\$4.73
Local School	\$9.11
State School	\$1.01
County	\$.89
2024 Tax Rate	\$15.74

Overall, the rate **DECREASED** by **\$1.73** this year.



The Town's value increased by \$192 million in 2024. Had the Town not updated assessed values the rate would have been \$17.90.

Town Administrator's News (cont'd.)



Town Hall will be closed to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, 01/20/2025



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.gov

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.

Bulky Waste Disposal

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 cash or a check made payable to the Town of Belmont prior to the collection Please visit the Town's website day. at www.belmontnh.gov for the full details on the program and a price list.



Just a reminder that the Town of Belmont is an active member of Lakes Region Public Access Television which can be seen locally on Breezeline 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 <u>http://lrpa.org</u>

Property Tax Exemptions & Credits

If you are wondering about an elderly or disabled property tax exemption, please refer to the chart and information below. If you think you will qualify, please come to Town Hall for an application, or download one from belmonth.gov from the Assessing Department page.

Please note that supporting documents such as statements will need to be from October, November and December 2024; to gualify for 2025. The deadline is April 15th, however we recommend filing early in case there are any additional documents you need to provide.

ELDERLY EXEMPTION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

****Applications accepted after January 1****

****Filing deadline is April 15****

Qualifications

- Must be 65 years of age on or before April 1
- Must be the owner of record on or before April 1
- Must reside in the State of New Hampshire for 3 consecutive years on or before April 1
- Married couples must have been married for 5 consecutive years on or before April 1
- · Must occupy the property as their principal abode to qualify for the elderly exemption
- ⇒ Income qualifications will include any gross income from all sources in the calendar year preceding April 1st
 - Single person income not to exceed \$25,000
 - Married persons joint income not to exceed \$35,000
- ⇒ Asset qualifications will include any assets on the date of application
 - Assets not to exceed \$150,000 (excluding the home they reside in)
 - Any other real estate owned anywhere (individually, jointly, in common, fractional) including land, mobile homes, condos, timeshares, etc.
 - Checking and/or savings account balances
 - CD's, IRA's, 401K's, mutual funds, stocks, bonds, annuities, life insurance policies, money market, etc.
 - · Any and all vehicles registered in your name including motor vehicles, cars, trucks, RV's, trailers, etc.

Exemption amount:

The exemption amount is subtracted from the assessed valuation to lower your tax liability.

- Ages 65 through 74: The exemption is \$ 65,000
- Ages 75 through 79: The exemption is \$ 80,000
- Ages 80 and over: The exemption is \$ 125,000

DISABLED EXEMPTION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

****Applications accepted after January 1****

Qualifications:

- Must be the owner of record on or before April 1
- Must reside in the State of New Hampshire for 5 consecutive years on or before April 1
- If real estate is owned by a spouse, they must have been married for 5 consecutive years on or before April 1
- · Must occupy as their principal abode the property qualifying for the exemption
- Must be under the age of 65 on April 1 and receiving Title II or Title XVI

Social Security disability benefits convert to retirement benefits at age 65. Taxpayer may apply for the elderly exemption.

⇒ Income qualifications will include <u>any income</u> from all sources in the calendar year preceding April 1st

- Single person income not to exceed \$25,000
- Married persons joint income not to exceed \$35,000
- ⇒ Asset qualifications will include <u>any assets</u> on the date of application
 - Assets not to exceed \$100,000 (excluding the home they reside in)
 - Any other real estate owned anywhere (individually, jointly, in common, fractional etc.) including land, mobile homes,
 - condos, timeshares, etc. Checking and/or savings account balances
 - CD's, IRA's, 401K's, mutual funds, stocks, bonds, annuities, cash value of life insurance policies, money market, etc.
 - Any and all vehicles registered in your name including motor vehicles, cars, trucks, RV's and trailers

Exemption amount:

The exemption is \$ 50,000 and is subtracted from the assessed valuation to lower tax liability.

****Filing deadline is April 15****

Town Clerk's Corner



Happy 2025 and New Year's Greetings!

Rollin' in the New Year with updates from the DMV in regards to registrations. We are now able to complete new Veteran Passenger/Antique Passenger Registrations.

Veteran Plate Requirements:

- Applicant must show their DD-214 form (Honorable Discharge/Separation paperwork). Please see the Clerk for a list of other forms that may be used per Saf-C 504.03
- Disabled Veteran, specialty plates/decals, and motorcycles will still need to be issued at the DMV

Antique Plate Requirements:

 To qualify for an Antique plate registration, the applicant must meet the requirements of RSA 259:4 ("must be over 25 years old which is maintained for use in exhibitions, club activities, parades, and other functions of public interest, but not for use in commerce")

2025 boat stickers are now available, though the registration procedure will look a little different this year. House Bill 1304 became law, effective 1/1/2025 for the 2025 boating season. This law change requires the issuance and display of a boat fee decal for the payment of boat fees. You will notice that the fee will be increased by \$3.00, and you will receive two sets of decals that must be displayed on each side of the bow.

We can officially begin renewing your furry family member's licenses. Dog licenses can be renewed in person, via mail or on our Town's website <u>www.belmontnh.gov</u>. The cost of the license is \$9.00 for dogs that are unaltered/intact, \$6.50 for dogs that are spayed/ neutered and if you are a dog owner who is over 65, one dog per household can be registered

Town Clerk's Corner continued . . .



for \$2.00. Please be sure to bring in your dog's updated rabies certificate. As always, we accept cash, check or card, and if using a card please keep in mind that there is a 2.79% fee added to the total. All licenses are due to be renewed by April 30, 2024.

Water/Sewer bills are due January 13, 2024. As with dog licenses the bills can be paid via mail, on the website or stop on in the office and say hello!

Mark your calendar for the Town's Deliberative Session to be held on Saturday, February 1st at 10:00am at the Belmont High School cafeteria.

Wednesday, January 22 to Friday, January 31 is the filing period for Town Offices. <u>ONLY DECLARATIONS</u> will be accepted between the hours of 4:00pm to 5:00pm on Friday, January 31, 2025

Forms need to be completed at the Clerks' Office. Available positions are as follows:

POSITION	OPENINGS	TERM
Selectmen	1	3 Year Term
Town Clerk/ Tax Collector	1	3 Year Term
Budget Committee	4	3 Year Term
Budget Committee	1	2 Year Term
Budget Committee	2	1 Year Term
Trustee of Trust Funds	1	3 Year Term
Library Trustee	1	3 Year Term
Town Treasurer	1	3 Year Term
Planning Board	2	3 Year Term
Zoning Board	1	3 Year Term
Cemetery Trustee	1	3 Year Term

May this year bring joy, success, and endless possibilities!

Jenn, Sam, & Devon

Spotlight on Town Clerk/Tax Collector



Here in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office we employ 3 full-time people to assist our residents. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector is an elected position along with two appointed assistant clerk/collectors. We are a very new office with all three of us just recently celebrating our 1-year anniversaries. Our office is open M-F 7:30AM-4PM (we do not close for lunch) as well as 24/7 through our online portal for payments and inquiries on our Town's website <u>www.belmontnh.gov</u>.

Our office is busy each day performing important duties for residents such as processing motor vehicle registrations, dog licenses, property tax and water/sewer payments, and vital record requests.

On a monthly basis we process an average of 1,300 to 1,500 motor vehicle transactions either paid online, over the counter or via mail.

During the months of January to the end of April we take care of dog licensing. We collect about \$7,800 by processing approximately 1,550 licenses along with sending out postcard reminders to dog owners who overlooked licensing their dogs by the April 30th due date. As the date for the civil forfeiture approaches, we also make phone calls as a reminder so residents can avoid the \$25 civil forfeiture fee and potential legal action.

The Town Clerk's office is also responsible for processing Vital Records such as birth, marriage and death certificates as well as marriage licenses. We process about 400 requests for vital records and collect about \$3,200 annually along with about \$1,400 in marriage licenses. The processing of birth, marriage and death certificates takes about 10 minutes per transaction while processing a marriage license takes about 45 minutes.

Property taxes are due twice a year in July and December. Our office is responsible for posting the warrants and collecting and processing the payments. In 2024, we processed \$23,326,000 in payments made over the counter, online and via mail.

Water/Sewer bills are due four times a year. As with property taxes, our office is responsible for posting the warrants and collecting and processing the payments. In 2024 we processed \$1,100,000 in payments.

During the time that we are not actively collecting and posting payments for taxes and utilities, we are busy researching and preparing for the various tax and utility processes that are required by law such as the tax lien/deed process. These take extensive preparation as we print, process and prepare to mail every notice in the office. We send out an average of 275 lien notices per year which require the preparation and mailing of delinquent notices as well as the preparation and mailing, via certified letter, the intent to lien notices.

Spotlight cont'd.

One of the main struggles we experienced in 2024 with our default budget was the requirement to hold 4 elections over the year with a budget that was designed to host only the Town's Election. Obviously holding the additional elections is mandatory and the cost that these elections incur is extensive. For example, getting the chip that we use in the ballot counting device costs upwards of \$2,000 per election. There is also the expense of staffing the election and the cost of the materials necessary to run the election. 2024 was a Presidential election year which is always



very heavily attended. Not only did we have to have adequate staffing on election day to handle the heavy voter traffic but we also had to process, mail and receive approximately 400 absentee ballots for the General Election alone. The postage on each ballot mailed is around \$1. Multiply that by 400 just for the NH State General election and our postage budget is affected as well.

With a new staff, training is essential. The default budget limited the training opportunities we can take advantage of. There are constant changes with legislature and processes for the many facets of our job that we need to keep up with, as well as learning the basics and more advanced processes we need to know in order to function well at our jobs, making trainings and workshops invaluable.

The renovation of the Mill has been delayed due to a lack of funding for the Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund warrant article; leaving us to conduct business at the Town Hall. The facilities in Town Hall are outdated and insufficient for the number of residents we provide services for. We have outgrown the storage space available for records we are required to retain and it is putting a strain on our workspace. There is definitely a concern with us further outgrowing our space at Town Hall.

I am very happy to be back serving the Town of Belmont as the Town Clerk/Tax Collector. My staff and I work very hard to provide stellar service with a positive attitude. I am so proud of Samantha and Devon for taking on a very challenging position and approaching it with a can-do attitude. We understand that the only reason residents come in is to hand over hard-earned money and we strive to make that as pleasant as possible.

We are looking forward to a productive year in 2025 with an emphasis on our professional development.

Our office is located at 143 Main Street and we can be reached at (603) 267-8300 xt 2. Swing in to say hello or with any questions or concerns you may have. Happy New Year!!

Highway Department News

Grant Funded Truck Has Arrived!



On Wednesday, December 18th, the Department took delivery of a new class 7 truck outfitted with a built-in spreader, plow and wing. This acquisition is the culmination of more than a year's worth of work between NHDES and Your Public Works Department. In October 2023, after receiving Select Board approval, the Department responded to an RFP for the Granite State Green Fleets, a competitive grant program that funded 80% of the replacement cost for a qualifying diesel truck. The Town of Belmont will receive just over \$200,000 paid directly from the NH Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund once the truck that this replaces is rendered permanently disabled by cutting a 3" hole in the engine block and cutting the frame.

The Department would like to thank NHDES for the Grant opportunity. Because of them, we are able to place a more environmentally friendly truck in service at minimal cost to the taxpayers of Belmont. This certified clean idle truck will reduce emissions and help protect the sensitive area we live in for years to come. As always, we appreciate the unwavering support and guidance from our Select Board, Budget Committee, and Administration. They keep Department heads motivated to provide high a level of service while keeping costs at a responsible level. Taking advantage of Grant opportunities like this are a great way to do that!



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



Highway Department News

Winter Temps and your Water Lines

Winter in New Hampshire brings cold temperatures, sometimes for extended periods of time. With that comes the potential for frozen pipes. It is your responsibility as a property owner to help protect those pipes and prevent freeze ups that are not only a nuisance but can cause significant damage and be quite costly.

Here are some ways to prevent pipes from freezing:

• Insulate pipes

Use pipe insulation, foam sleeves, or heat tape to insulate pipes in unheated areas like attics and crawl spaces.

Keep the thermostat up

Set your thermostat to a temperature no lower than 55° F, especially during cold weather.

Drip faucets

Let a small amount of water drip from faucets in the kitchen, bathroom, and laundry areas.

Open cabinet doors

Open cabinet doors in the kitchen and bathroom to allow warmer air to circulate around pipes.

Seal cracks

Seal or caulk any cracks that might let in cold air, especially around dryer vents and water pipes.

Protect outdoor faucets

Disconnect garden hoses and drain them. For outdoor faucets with cut-off valves, close the valves and drain the faucets. You can also use faucet covers.

Use an automatic water shut-off device

This can help protect against frozen pipes and water damage.







January 2025

Belmont Fire Department



BFD Times

Welcome Probationary Firefighter, Liam Foston!



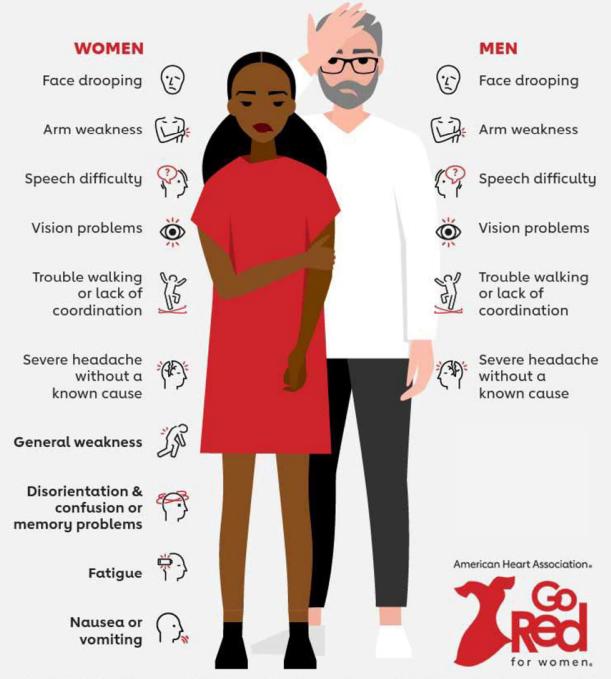
(Pictured Shift 3 L to R: FF/AEMT Dalton Brown, FF/AEMT Trevor Gilbert, PFF/EMT Liam Foston, Lt. Tom Ryan)

We are pleased to welcome our newest member to the Belmont Fire Department! As of December 16th, please welcome Probationary Firefighter Liam Foston! PFF Foston joined us as a Call Member in September and is learning the ropes at rapid speed all while attending Lakes Region Community College. Once PFF Foston has completed his daytime training rotation in mid-January, he will be joining Shift 3 (Photo above) as the second SAFER Grant position. Welcome to the BFD family, Liam!

Belmont Fire Department—Stroke Symptoms

STROKE SYMPTOMS: WOMEN VS. MEN

Men and women share a common set of stroke symptoms. But women also can experience more subtle warning signs.



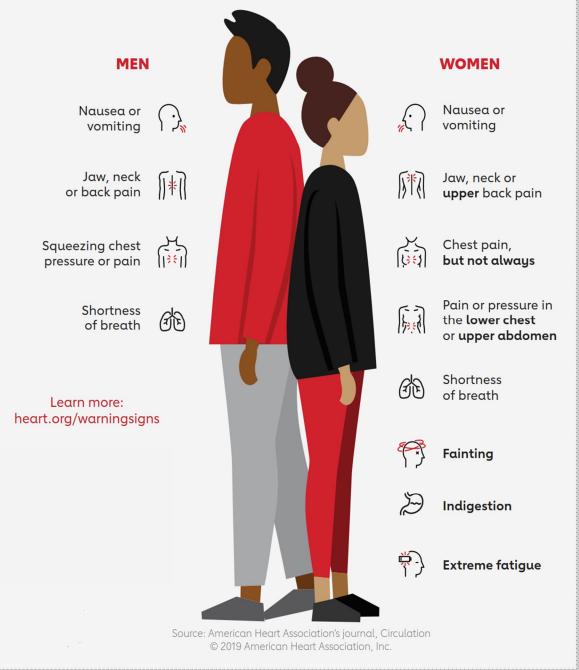
Source: American Stroke Association; Gender Medicine; Journal of Neuroscience Nursing Published May 31, 2019 | © Copyright 2020 American Heart Association, Inc. By American Heart Association News Go Red for Women is a registered trademark of AHA. The Red Dress Design is a trademark of U.S. DHHS. Unauthorized use prohibited.

Belmont Fire Department—Heart Attack Symptoms



HEART ATTACK SYMPTOMS: MEN VS. WOMEN

The most common symptoms of a heart attack for both men and women is chest pain. But women may experience less obvious signs.



SPOTLIGHT on Fire Department

The Belmont Fire Department is an all-hazards Fire Department which responds to multiple types of emergencies in the Town of Belmont and surrounding areas. The Mission of the Belmont Fire Department is to provide fire, emergency medical, and fire prevention services in a caring and compassionate manner. To be prepared to respond to any request for assistance and to ensure that every member of the department returns home safely. Prior to 2001, the Station was staffed by full-time personnel only between the hours of 6am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Outside of

these times, emergency incidents were handled by on-call personnel, when available. In early 2000, Chief Akerstrom began studying the feasibility of adding enough staff to cover the Town 24/7. Call volume had increased dramatically, training requirements for on-call Fire and EMS personnel were steadily increasing, and often, calls were beginning to go unanswered by the Belmont Fire Department, making it necessary for our Mutual Aid partners to step in and assist. Thus, in July of 2001, 6 new Fire-fighter/EMTs were hired to bring staffing up to an adequate level to provide the Town with Fire and EMS coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Belmont Fire Department currently has 17 full-time employees with a Chief, Assistant Chief, Administrative Assistant, 4 Lieutenants, 9 Firefighter/AEMT's and 1 Firefighter/Paramedic. We also have a roster of 11 Call Members with a wide range of experience and certifications.

Our Chief Officers and Administration are available Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:00am – 4:00pm and our responding shifts rotate every 4-days, working a 24-hour shift followed by 72-hours off. Our shifts are as follows:

Shift 1 – Staff of 3 – A Lieutenant, 2-Firefighter/AEMTs

Shift 2 – Staff of 4 – A Lieutenant, 2-Firefighter/AEMTs, 1-Firefighter/EMT (SAFER Grant Position) Shift 3 – Staff of 4 – A Lieutenant, 2-Firefighter/AEMTs, 1-Firefighter/EMT (SAFER Grant Position) Shift 4 – Staff of 3 – A Lieutenant, 1-Firefighter/Paramedic, 1-Firefighter/AEMT

We have a fairly young Department overall; however, it is led by seasoned members who have joined us over the years from other Departments, with many years of experience on the job. The longevity of the staff at Belmont Fire is a wide range of experience, anywhere from 25+ years to as little as 1week.

We offer a wide variety of services from running fire drills in our schools and businesses, fire prevention, home inspections including heating and tank inspections, educating the general public, preserving life and property, and emergency medical services among others. Our major concern is the level of service we can provide without an increase in staffing. As of 12/19/2024, our call volume has already surpassed last year's request for service with 1,525 calls for service. A staff of 4 on each shift benefits the townspeople when they are in need of services for an emergency. For instance, on December 12, we had multiple overlapping calls, but because we had a staff of 4 that day, we were able to handle the calls with minimal overtime for station coverage. There are many times when our Chief Officers respond to calls and are hands-on, due to minimal staffing. With a 4-person shift, and multiple calls, we do not have to reach out to our Mutual Aid partners, which in turn, increases our response time and our ambulance billing revenue. We are also challenged with attracting new employees with a starting pay rate that is not competitive with our surrounding areas. Offering a competitive starting salary will help to attract and retain talented and dedicated staff members.

SPOTLIGHT on Fire Department

This year's default budget brought us many challenges in a wide range of areas. We live in a fire house built in the mid 1990's that is drastically showing its age with cracked exterior walls, aging warped bay doors, a vertical support beam that has shifted, among many cosmetic issues. Our aging response apparatuses have had some major and minor repairs this year, and we had to pick and choose what needed to urgently be repaired and what could wait until a later date.



In 2025, you will see a warrant article on the ballot for a new tanker. This would be paid completely out of Ambulance Billing Revenue and would not impact the tax rate. This truck would replace our 2001 Tanker that had to be taken out of service earlier this year.

In 2022, Belmont Fire Department was awarded a SAFER Grant which would cover the salary and benefits of 2 full-time Grant funded positions until March 2026. As of recently, we have filled both Grant positions. We are requesting that the 2 Grant positions be permanently added to the department starting in the 2025 budget year. We will continue to utilize the 2 SAFER Grant positions until March 2026. We have the potential to file a 6-month extension on the SAFER Grant to continue to deplete the funds awarded to us. When grant funds run out in late 2026, we would like to request 2 additional permanent full-time employees be added to our roster, which will ensure proper staffing to 4 members on each shift, 7-days a week, to serve our community in the way that they deserve.

We want you to know that even though we are called 'firefighters', our job entails so much more. Medical emergencies make up the majority of incidents, however we also handle rescues, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous materials calls, water problems and of course, fires. We also tend to be the agency that is called when nobody is sure whose job it is to handle an issue. When not responding to emergencies, you can find your Belmont firefighters out training, maintaining vehicles, participating in community events, and familiarizing ourselves with businesses new and old, so that we are better prepared to handle any emergency that may arise at any of our Belmont businesses.

How can you reach us?

Our location: 14 Gilmanton Rd Our email: <u>bfd@belmontnh.gov</u> Our Phone #: (603) 267-8333 (follow the prompts.) Lobby Hours: 7:00am-7:00pm*

*There are rare times when staff is not available, which typically means we are all out on a call.

Belmont Police Department—Winter/Holiday Safety

THANK YOU!!

We want to thank everyone who donated items, gave a monetary dotation, or adopted families to assist us with the Santa's Little Helpers program. The community support for this program is very much appreciated. We were able to assist 14 families, with 26 children amongst them. The program has been running for many years and we look forward to supporting the community in the future with this program. Again, a huge Thank You to everyone!!! Have a safe and Happy New Year.



<u>Beware of</u> Brushing Scam

A recent scam has been showing up in many states. A "brushing" scam is when someone receives an unexpected gift or item not ordered in the mail from a place like Amazon or other company. Examples of gifts include rings, bracelets, necklaces, Bluetooth speaker, etc. The gift will have the recipient's address, but not include the sender's information or be from a known retailer. When the recipient opens the package to see what



it is and possibly who sent it, there is a QR code to scan to find out who sent the gift.

Once the code is scanned, information from that phone will be sent to scammers. They receive all access to the phone. All personal and financial information is accessible to the scammers and often the victim's bank accounts are drained.

The gift can be kept or thrown away, but the QR code should NOT be scanned for any reason. QR code scams are nothing new. These scams show up in all places, including parking meters.

Inform your family members about the scam and avoid scanning any unknown QR codes included in the package.

We have not had any reports of this scam locally, but we want to inform the community about it, in the event someone does attempt it. If you have any questions or comments for us, we can be reached at 603-267-8350.

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

Belmont Police Department

Qualified Patrol Officer Candidates Needed

Patrol Officer

The Belmont Police Department is seeking qualified candidates to fill four vacant patrol positions.

Job Summary

Performs duties required to protect lives and property of the public, maintain law and order, detect and prevent crime, apprehend and prosecute violators of the criminal and

motor vehicle laws; does related work as required. Performs diversified work patrolling roadways within the Town, responsible for the enforcement of State laws and Town ordinances making regular patrols, directing traffic, responding to calls for service, investigating accidents and crimes; may include other specialized police activities. Makes frequent contacts with the public, other law enforcement agencies, governmental and court officials for the discussion of problems and to obtain cooperation necessary for the accomplishment of the police department mission.

Minimum Qualifications Required

U.S. citizen, high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate, minimum age 21, must pass written and/or oral examinations, extensive background investigation, criminal history check, medical examination, physical fitness test, polygraph examination, psychological examination, and be certified or certifiable by the N.H. Police Standards & Training Council.

Training Required

While no advanced training is required, it is desired. Candidates will be required to attend and successfully complete the basic police certification course held at the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council within one (1) year of appointment unless there is no scheduled class within that time frame as well as the department field training program.

Compensation and Benefits: Wages are based on a 10-step union negotiated scale, up to \$36.11 dependent upon years of service for Full-Time Certified Officers. Eleven (11) paid holidays, Medical, Dental and Life Insurance.

Accrual of annual and sick leave with 80 hours vacation time after 6 months. Officers typically work 4/3 schedule, and rotate every 2 months. Participation in the New Hampshire Retirement System Group II.

Salary: \$23.85 - \$36.11 per hour

Benefits: Dental insurance, Employee Assistance Program, health insurance, life insurance, retirement plan, vision insurance

Interested parties may submit a Personal History Statement Form available at belmontnhpolice.org

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



Belmont Police Department—Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

No one wants to spend their holiday behind bars. If you're planning to drink, plan to get a safe, sober ride home.

- However you celebrate, if your plans involve alcohol, make sure you plan for a designated driver.
- If you have to ask if you're okay to drive , then you already know the answer.
- Celebrate the season safely. Even one drink can cause impairment. If you've been drinking, call
 a sober friend, rideshare or taxi to get you home safely.
- Get your holiday hosting checklist together!
 - \Rightarrow Punch
 - \Rightarrow Decorations
 - \Rightarrow Food
 - \Rightarrow Solutions for a safe ride home!



Visit <u>ReadyNH.gov</u> to sign up for emergency alerts specific to your area, and/or visit the website to stay informed about state emergencies.



Welcome to ReadyNH.gov, New Hampshire's official source for information during state emergencies.

At ReadyNH.gov you can stay informed with the latest safety information using Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (HSEM's) <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Facebook</u> feeds, know of dangers in your area using <u>NH</u> <u>Alerts</u>, and <u>learn what to do before</u>, <u>during and after a disaster</u>, including completing <u>emergency contact cards</u> a, find out what you should have in your <u>emergency kit</u>, and complete a <u>family emergency plan</u>.

Part of being prepared is being informed. Sign up for NH Alerts today.

Sign up for Emergency Alerts through NH Alerts

Do you have questions? Read the FAQ.

New Hampshire's new app for NH Alerts is Genasys Protect. Download the Genasys Protect mobile app for <u>iPhone</u> or <u>Android</u>.

search this site)QTake Action, Be Safe! Immediately: Stay Informed Have a Plan ⊘ Make a Kit Get Involved Be Informed: Learn what to do Before, During, and After A Disaster SEABROOK STATION **Emergency Preparedness Information** HERE ORDER POTASSIUM IODIDE

January 2025

Belmont Parks & Rec



HELP US IMPROVE!

Do you have ideas on how Belmont Parks & Recreation can better serve our community? Do you have skills or talents you would like to share with the community?

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK



https://tinyurl.com/BelmontRecSurvey

Belmont Parks & Rec Gunstock Program



January 2025 Land Use

In this issue >>>

Upcoming Meetings:

ARC – 1/16/2025 (if needed) Planning Board – 1/27/2025 Zoning Board – 1/22/2025



2025

A Monthly Insight into the happenings in Belmont Land Use



February Meetings >>>

Your Land Use Staff

Karen Santoro Town Planner

Rod Cameron Land Use Technician

Susan Austin Administrative Assistant

> John Crowley Land Use Clerk

For additional Information: Visit <u>www.belmontnh.gov</u> Contact <u>luoffice@belmontnh.gov</u>



Application Review Committee (December 19, 2024)

<u>Revision Energy:</u> Review of an application to install solar on a cleared portion of the lot for a community solar farm. Property is located on Mile Hill Road, Tax Lot 205-037-000-000, in the RS and Rural Zone. ARC Case# 13-24R

Bitsie Properties, LLC: Review of an application for site plan to create a contractor's yard with a pole barn. Property is located at Post Office Road, Tax Lot 126-012-000-000, in the Industrial Zone. ARC Case# 14-24R

Planning Board (December 16, 2024)

2025 Zoning Amendments Second Public Hearing

<u>Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – 284 Property, LLC:</u> Continuation of a request for Site Plan approval to construct a 4,950 square foot steel storage building. Property is located at 284 Laconia Road, Tax Lot 210-002-000-000 in the Commercial Zone. PB Case# 16-24P.

Zoning Board of Adjustment (December 18, 2024)

<u>Abutter's Hearings – Aaron Cook & Quian Gao:</u> Applicant is requesting to place a park model camper, a three-season room and deck on their lot and is requesting the following relief:

A variance to Article 5; Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance, to allow the camper, three season room, and deck closer (10.6') to the property line than allowed (25' required). Case 23-24Z

A Variance to Article 8:B:f, to allow the camper, three season room, and deck closer (12.4') to the internal park road known as Morway Lane, than allowed (15' required). Case #24-24Z

Property is located at 4 Morway Lane, Tax Lot 117-015-000-125, in the Residential Single Zone.



Land Use

Zoning Board of Adjustment (Cont.)

<u>Abutters' Hearing – Matthew and Marlene McCabe:</u> Request for an approval extension of three variances to Article 5, Table 2 (Dimensional Regulations) to allow the following:

To construct an addition to the existing home and add a deck closer (36.13') to the front property line than allowed (50') ZBA Case 28-24Z

To construct the deck portion of the structure closer (13.73') to the side property line than allowed (25') ZBA Case 29-24Z

To construct the garage portion of the structure closer (15.03') to the side property line than allowed (25') ZBA Case 30-24Z Property is located at 21 Walnut Street in the "RS" Zone, Tax Lot 114-009-000-000.

2025 Proposed Zoning Amendments

AMENDED Article 4:J Agricultural Animals

Update Agricultural Use Table to align with Article 4:J "Agricultural Animals" Ordinance language.

ARTICLE 5. - TABLE 1 Zoning District Regulations Table of Permitted Uses

ARTICLE 5 TABLE 1 Zoning District Regu- lations Table of Permitted Uses	Com- mercial	Industrial	Residential Multifamily	Residential Single	Rural	Village
Agricultural Animals (Lots 3 Acres and larger)	E	E	Р	Р	Р	E
Agricultural Animals (Lots less than 3 acres)	E	E	EP	E-P	₽ ₽	E

NEW Article 4:M

Unregistered Motor Vehicles:

Parking and storage of unregistered motor vehicles. Except as located within an approved junkyard or vehicle wrecking and salvage yard or a licensed repair facility, not more than one unregistered vehicle shall be parked on any lot. Vehicles not requiring registration or inspection for legal use are exempt from this provision.

NEW Article 15: Definitions

Motor Vehicle:

Any self-propelled vehicle not operated exclusively on stationary tracks, including ski area vehicles. This includes all vehicles, engines, machines, or mechanical contrivances, except electric bicycles and electric personal assistive mobility devices (e.g. mobility scooter), which are propelled on the public highways by internal combustion engines, electric motors, steam engines, or other alternate sources of energy except human or animal power.

Looking for Board members!

Visit the Town's website: <u>www.belmontnh.gov</u> to submit an application.

Planning Board

- 7 regular members, 3 alternates
- <u>3 vacancies</u>

Zoning Board

- 5 regular members, 5 alternates
- <u>3 vacancies</u>

Conservation (2 vacancies)

• 7 regular members, 3 alternates, 2 student members



Conservation Commission

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

New Hampshire Winters

New Hampshire is experiencing climate change, including declining snowfall, increased precipitation, and more extreme temperatures. New Hampshire winters have historically been characterized by cold and snowy conditions that provide opportunities for many winter outdoor recreation activities. Yet, in the past 50 years, New Hampshire has lost approximately three weeks of snow-covered days and the ice-out dates on Lake Winnipesaukee are averaging eight days earlier. The State had its warmest winter on record in 2023-24, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The average temperature for meteorological winter – December through February – was 28 degrees. That's almost 9 degrees warmer than an average winter between 1896 and 2000. There's only been two other winters when that agency didn't record any sub-zero temperatures at the site since recordkeeping began in 1868. The lowest temperature on the coldest night of the year has increased between 6 and 14 degrees across the state in the last 50 years, according to the state's latest climate assessment. It appears that climate change is not only impacting residents and tourists but it is also having an impact on the state's plants and animals.

New Hampshire State Flower - Purple Lilac (Syringa vulgaris)

The purple lilac was first imported from England and planted at the Portsmouth home of Governor



Benning Wentworth in 1750. It was adopted as the state's flower in 1919. That year bills and amendments were introduced promoting the apple blossom, purple aster, wood lily, Mayflower, goldenrod, wild pasture rose, evening primrose and buttercup as the state flower. The purple lilac was ultimately chosen because it "is symbolic of that hardy character of the men and women of the Granite State." However, Climate change is affecting lilacs by causing them to bloom earlier in the year. Lilacs are considered an "indicator plant" because they bloom in response to temperature. In some areas, lilacs have been blooming one day earlier every three years since 1973.

New Hampshire State Tree - White Birch (Betula papyrifera)

The white birch tree is the state tree of New Hampshire. It became the Granite State's official tree in the 1947 Legislature without argument or opposition. It was sponsored by Senator J. Guy Smart of Durham,

on behalf of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs. The white birch is also called the canoe birch or the paper birch, for understandable reasons. Native Americans used birch bark to make canoes and writing paper.

White birch owes its appearance and some of its more interesting features to an organic compound called betulin. Betulin gives white birch its immediately recognizable white bark; which is quite fortunate as the color is what helps it survive the cold New Hampshire winters. White birch has rather thin bark and during the cold winter months the sapwood (soft outer layers of the tree that contain the vascular tissue) freezes beneath the bark. If the bark was a darker color, it would absorb the winter sun during the day which in turn would warm and thaw the sapwood. The return of colder temperatures and darkness during the night would reverse the process and freeze the sapwood once the sun had set. This constant freeze-thaw action would result in the bark cracking, leaving the tree more susceptible to disease and destruction.



However, since the bark is lighter in color, it reflects the sun's rays and the sapwood remains a constant temperature through the winter months.

Conservation Commission

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

New Hampshire State Bird - Purple Finch (Haemorhous purpureus)

The Purple Finch breeds throughout New Hampshire but is far more common in the north and west in

coniferous and mixed forests. Like many finches, the Purple Finch is an "irruptive" species, meaning that the numbers we see in the winter fluctuate widely depending on food supply to the north. During the winter, they feed on a variety of seeds including conifers and mountain ash (plus sunflower at feeders!). If there is a good seed crop in their core range in Canada, fewer will migrate south in the fall, and we'll see lower numbers at feeders. But when food is scarce to the north they'll migrate south until they find some, and numbers can be higher. Here in New Hampshire, peak fall migration generally occurs in October and November, and birds move back north in April.



There has been much speculation on why Purple Finches are

declining, but the species is not well-studied despite being widespread and fairly common. As a northern species, it could be responding to climate change – or to related changes in habitat or food supply – but we simply lack the data needed to evaluate this hypothesis.

New Hampshire State Animal - White-Tailed Deer (Odocoileus virginianus)

New Hampshire designated the white-tailed deer as state animal in 1983. An animal of incredible beauty



and power, white-tailed deer are able to run up to 40 miles per hour, jump 9 foot fences, and swim 13 miles per hour. The white underside of the deer's tail waves when running and is flashed as a warning when danger is sensed. Both native Americans and settlers relied on the white-tailed deer for buckskin and food. White-tailed deer in New Hampshire are at the northern limit of their range and have several natural adaptations that help them survive the winter. These include a thick winter coat of hollow hairs and the storage of fat in fall for later use during winter. Adult deer lose up to 20 percent of their body weight during winter, regardless of the amount or quality of food present.

Feeding deer often makes them more vulnerable to starvation, predation, disease, and vehicle collisions, among other things. For the long-term health of deer, the

best management strategy is to keep deer dependent on their natural food and cover. A healthy deer population will be sustained if New Hampshire maintains mature softwood wintering areas, young hardwood stands, nut-producing trees (like oak and beech) and forest openings.

Next Conservation Commission Meeting

Wednesday, February 05, 2025 @ 6:00 PM Tioga Room, $4^{\rm th}$ Floor, Belmont Mill, Mill Street, Belmont, NH

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS Denise Naiva, Chair; Pauline Tessier, Vice-Chair; Jane Jordan; Ed Stephenson; Georgina Lambert; Jeffrey DeFrancesco; Sharon Ciampi, Ex-Officio ALTERNATE MEMBERS Richard Moreau; Thomas Ceniglio STUDENT MEMBERS Emerson Decato, Mia Kenison

Library News—January & February

Creative Conversations

FIBER ARTS

Self-guided gathering where adults can work on various fiber crafts and chat.

MONDAYS at 10am

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Self-guided craft time where adults can work with watercolor techniques and chat. Supplies provided.

MONDAYS at 2PM

ART FOR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED ADULTS

Meets twice a month to participate in a themed craft/painting project. **WEDNESDAY January 8, 22 2pm**

Family Activities

PRE-K PALS

Kids learn to listen, follow instructions, practice social skills through cooperative interaction & stories.

TUESDAYS at 11am

STORY TOTS Storytime and activities for birth through three. WEDNESDAYS at 10:30am

MY FIRST BOOK CLUB Family-led book discussion that encourages the enjoyment of reading.

SATURDAY January 18 11am

CHAPTER CHATS (Grades 4-6) Monthly discussion of current GSF nominations. THURSDAY January 16 4pm

FLASHBACK FILMS Tweens & Teens relax with movies from the early 2000s. FRIDAYS at 3pm

January-February 2025

Book Groups

NONFICTION BOOK GROUP

Art Thief by Michael Finkel THURSDAY February 6 at 10:30am

TEA & TALES BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY January 9 at 4:30pm My Dark Vanessa by Kate Elizabeth Russelli

MYSTERY GROUP THURSDAY January 23 at 10am The Last Party by Clare Mackintosh THURSDAY February 27 at 10am The Long Call by Anne Cleeves

FRIDAY FICTION BOOK GROUP

FRIDAY January 17 at 10:30am The Daring Ladies of Lowell by Kate Alcott FRIDAY February 21 at 10:30am Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

LOCAL HISTORY CONVERSATIONS

Thursday January 23 at 6:30pm

Join others interested in preserving and celebrating local history for an intriguing discussion. Light refreshments.

Library Closed

WEDNESDAY January 1 MONDAY January 20 MONDAY February 17

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

146 Main Street belmontpubliclibrary.org (603) 267-8331 MF 10-5 TWTH 10-6 Sa 9-1 Please take notice that the Village Rail Spur Trail is not maintained over the winter. All Town trails may be enjoyed at your own risk.



TRAIL NOT MAINTAINED FOR WINTER USE PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK

SIGN

Property Fraud ALERT !!

UP

PROPERTY FRAUD

FOR

FREE

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PROPERTY FRAUD

PROPERTY FRAUD

PROPERTY FRAUD occurs when someone records a fraudulent document in the county land records office, making it look like they own your home or property.



PROPERTY FRAUD ALERT is a notification service that alerts subscribers against the possibilities of fraudulent activity being committed against their property.

SIGN UP FOR FREE by visiting

PropertyFraudAlert.com, by scanning the QR code with your phone camera, or call the Property Fraud Alert Hotline at 800-728-3858.



Choose how you want to be notified!



Register in English or Spanish Registrese en inglés o español

For further details, contact your county's Land Records Office **Belknap County Conservation District**



January 2025

Franklin VNA & Hospice FREE Advanced Care Planning Session



Advance Care Planning Walk-In Session

Friday, January 17, 2025 1:00-3:00 PM

Franklin VNA & Hospice 75 Chestnut St, Franklin

Registration is not required. This program is offered at no charge.

For more information, call (603) 934-3454 or email info@franklinvna.org



A Franklin VNA & Hospice Social Worker/Notary Public will be available to:

- Discuss your end-of-life wishes and how to have the conversation with your loved ones about your decisions
- Review your Advanced Directives to make sure they reflect your decisions
- Assist with filling out your Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare and/or Living Will
- Provide information on resources or services that may benefit you or your family members.

Community Action Program/AmeriCorps Program

AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program

We are a Statewide Program

603-225-3295 x1114



Volunteer With Us

- Adults aged 55+
- Receive an hourly tax free stipend that does not affect social security, rent or any other benefits
- Receive mileage reimbursement
- Create your own schedule
- Receive ongoing paid training
- Receive ongoing support
- Receive annual volunteer recognition
- Create lifelong friendships
- Learn about community resources available to you



We Provide

- Long term companionship
- Friendly weekly visits
- Assistance with errands
- Accompaniment to social events/outings
- Encouragement to remain active
- Community resource referrals (as needed)
- Respite to unpaid caregivers
- Participation in hobbies and activities of interest



Community Action Program/AmeriCorps Program

AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program of New Hampshire: Quick Facts

Mission

The Senior Companion Program is federally funded by AmeriCorps Seniors. The mission of the Senior Companion Program is to offer active older adults in NH the opportunity to contribute to their communities by promoting independence for, and enhancing the quality of life of, other seniors and adults with special needs. Consistent with this mission, the follow goals have been defined:

 To reduce social isolation for the frail elderly and other adults with special needs by developing meaningful relationships between Senior Companions and their visitees.

AmeriCorps Seniors

- To provide a formal structure within which Senior Companions come together to attain a common understanding of the services they provide and to be recognized and rewarded for their efforts.
- To encourage independence of seniors and other adults with special needs and to provide them with community-based alternatives to delay premature institutionalization.

Visitees (individuals served by the Senior Companion)

Referrals (visitees) involving the following are NOT appropriate:

- Expectation of service delivery outside of the scope of the Senior Companion Program (personal care, housekeeping, financial, ambulation or medical assistance, etc.)
- Individuals who are combative
- Individuals who do NOT want a visitor (primarily seeking transportation assistance)
- Individuals who are NOT homebound (still driving)
- Individuals receiving 24/7 in home care from service provider
- Individuals living in an assisted living or skilled nursing setting
- Individuals in an unsafe living environment or living situation

Companions

A person aged 55 and older, who meets the eligibility criteria and volunteers 10 to 40 hours per week serving elders or adults with special needs. Companions assist visitees with activities of daily living that help the visitee maintain their independence. They also provide non-medical respite for caregivers. **Senior Companion Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be 55 years of age or older
- Must be determined by physical examination to be capable of serving the frail elderly or adults with special needs without detriment to their own health or those they serve
- Must have an annual income, after deducting medical expenses, which does not exceed the income eligibility guideline for the state: Individual \$30,120/\$40,880 couple (200% of DHHS Poverty Limit)
- Must have reliable transportation (unless otherwise approved by Program Manager)
- Must have current auto insurance within specified limits
- Must have clean BEAS, NSOPW and FBI Fingerprint Scan results
- Shadowing: Candidates are expected to shadow vetted companions for at least 15 hours prior to volunteering on their own

Appropriate Senior Companion Activities:

- Accompaniment for doctor appointments
- Encouraging Exercise
- Providing Peer Support
- Accompaniment to social events/outings
- Accompaniment for errands (grocery shopping etc.)
- Assist with mail (sorting, reading, writing)

January 2025

Community Action Program/AmeriCorps Program

- Participating with the visitee in hobbies (light gardening, knitting, adult coloring, etc.)
- Providing information about community resources, needed resources, memberships
- Bringing unmet needs to the attention of the Station Supervisor/Program Coordinator
- Providing respite care to family caregivers (that does not involve personal or medical care)

Companions:

- Receive an hourly stipend of \$4.00 per hour
- Are reimbursed for mileage by CAP at a rate of \$.67 cents per mile (unless otherwise approved by the Elder Services Director)
- Will be reimbursed \$.37 cents per mile by the visitee for transportation provided during the visit
- Are entitled to a two-hour minimum for all meetings
- Are expected to volunteer at least 10 hours per week
- Are expected to volunteer no more than 40 hours per week
- Cannot work more than 8 hours per day
- Cannot work outside of 8:30am 4:30pm, Mon Fri
- Are paid biweekly

Visits

Companion visits average 2-4 hours per visit. Each visitee will have one visit per week, unless a secondary visit is approved by the Program Manager. Companions coordinate their own schedules but must meet the 10-hour weekly requirement.

Trash & Recycling Calendar 2025

Weds. 1/1 DELAYED to Thurs. 1/2

All other collection days

remain the same

Full year 2025 calendars available at

https://belmontnh.gov/Pages/

Index/50738/solid-waste

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American Red Cross Blood Drive

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive Belmont Community St. Joseph Church

Church Basement 96 Main Street Belmont, NH 03220

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: BELMONT to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

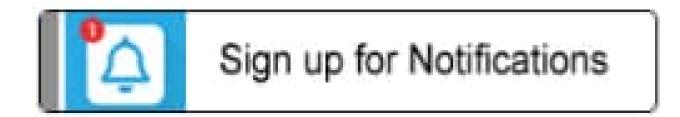
Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Come give Jan. 1-26 to automatically be entered for a chance to win an exciting trip for you & a guest to Super Bowl LIX in New Orleans! Includes travel, hotel, \$1,000 gift card, pre-game activities & more! Terms apply; visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App ©2016 The American National Red Cross



Do you know someone new to Town, or someone in Town who would love to **see our Newsletter and receive important notices by email from the Town of** Belmont?

Please visit our homepage at <u>belmontnh.gov</u> and click the button on the righthand side to "Sign Up for Notifications".

