Our Community Newsletter

BELMONT

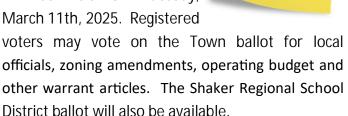




The Belmont Voters' Guide is a tool to aid registered voters in making informed decisions about ballot items. The Guide contains descriptions and additional information about many of the warrant articles that cannot be included in the legal language required on the ballot itself. The Guide has been posted to our website at <u>belmontnh.gov</u> and was also emailed to all recipients of our Newsletter list as a separate PDF document. Hard copies of the Guide may be picked up at Town Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Town and School Meeting Day will be held on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025. Registered



Tuesday, 03/11/2025 BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL 7:00 am to 7:00 pm 255 Seavey Road



Upcoming Public Hearing

HEARING A public hearing will take place on 02/19/2025 at 10:00 am to take public comment on changing the purpose of the Special Revenue Fund known as the Fire/ Ambulance Equipment & Apparatus Fund. This is an annual "housekeeping" item required by law. will be closed for *Washington's Birthday* Monday February 17, 2025

TOWN HALL



Town Administrator's News (cont'd.)

The 2025 Town Meeting Warrant, MS737 and Default Budget have been posted to our website.

Hard copies are available at Town Hall.

2025 Warrant (PDF)

2025 MS737 (PDF)

2025 Sunray Shores MS737 (PDF)

2025 Default Budget (PDF)



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>

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Town Clerk's Corner



The Town's Deliberative Session will be held on Saturday, February 1st at 10:00 am in the cafeteria at Belmont High School, 255 Seavey Road. Why is the Deliberative Session so crucial for Belmont residents? This session allows voters to ask questions, have discussions, and educate themselves and each other about procedures and the articles on the warrant. While no voting will take place on this day, there is an opportunity to amend the wording and dollar amounts of the proposed articles.

Town voter guides will be available at Town Hall after the Deliberative Session. The Town Election will be held at Belmont High School on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. Polls are open from 7 AM to 7 PM.

New voters can register to vote at the Clerk's Office until March 1st, 2025. Otherwise, new voter registrations will be accepted at the polls on election day. In addition to your ID and proof of residency (bill in your name, paystub, bank statement, etc.), House Bill 1569 now requires proof of valid citizenship with documents such as a birth certificate, passport, or naturalization paperwork. This new law also removes all exceptions to the state's voter ID requirements and eliminates the affidavit ballot system. For more information, please visit <u>www.sos.nh.gov/elections/register-vote</u>.

Unable to attend the election? Absentee ballots will be available soon in the Clerk's Office. Please give us a call at 603-267-8300 x2 to see if they are ready.

<u>REMINDER</u>: March 1, 2025 is the deadline for abatement applications. Applications are available at Town Hall or on our website's Assessing page at <u>belmontnh.gov</u>

Think Spring! 2025 boat stickers are now available. House Bill 1304 became law, effective 1/1/2025 for the 2025 boating season. This 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.

If you have a furry family member, be sure to stop by Town Hall and renew their license before April 30th. If their rabies vaccination has been recently updated, please bring that with you. The cost for dogs who have been spayed/neutered is \$6.50 while unaltered dog licenses cost \$9.00. If you are over the age of 65 you get one dog license per household for \$2.00. Licenses can also be renewed online.

May your February be Fun, Fabulous, and Full of Happiness!

Jenn, Sam, & Devon

Highway Department News

Sand for Residents

The Public Works Department offers sand to any resident of Belmont for use on their driveways and walkways. Sand can be found in a bin constructed to the right of the Public Works Facility entrance located at 149 Hurricane Road. It is self service and accessible 24-7 for convenience. We ask residents to limit themselves to 3 pails per visit to ensure there is enough sand for everyone who needs it.





Frost Heaves

They're back! Frost heaves are starting to make their annual appearance. Members of your Public Works Team have noticed the formation of a few frost heaves and will begin marking them with the appropriate signage to warn travelers. They form rather quickly (seemingly overnight) and can sneak up on unexpected motorist. Some have the potential to cause damage, so please use caution and watch for advanced warning signs.

Used Oil Drop Off Location

The Public Works facility located at 149 Hurricane Road supplements its heat by using a waste oil furnace in the garage. This allows the used oil generated by the maintenance of Belmont's fleet to be recycled and turned into a heat source for the crew that keeps the Town moving. If you, or someone you know is a "Do it Yourself" oil changer feel free to help keep your crews warm. Used oil free of contaminants can be dropped off anytime the facility is open. Business hours are Monday through Thursday from 6:30 am to 4:00 pm and Friday from 6:30 am to 10:30 am. The direct line to the facility is 603-528-2677 to confirm someone will be on site to collect it free of charge.





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



Highway Department News



It may seem early but now is the time to start thinking about the 6-ton weight restriction placed on all of Belmont's townmaintained roads. These weight restrictions are placed in an effort to protect the Towns massive and ongoing investment into the roads you travel every day. Damage done during the spring thaw leads to costly repairs that can be avoided if these rules are followed for this brief window in time. The exact date

varies from year to year but it will undoubtedly arrive and be here for an undisclosed length of time. Last years restrictions were posted the last week in February. Exemptions are only given for emergency situations and lack of planning is not considered an emergency, so please start thinking about spring projects. Ask yourselves, will I need materials delivered? Will I require services that utilize vehicles or equipment that exceed 6 ton? Dumpsters for construction projects and appliances for that kitchen remodel all get delivered by vehicles exceeding the weight restriction so please start to make arrangements and have them delivered before the restrictions are posted.

With colder temperatures expected in the coming days, we want to remind you to take the necessary steps to protect your plumbing system from the risk of freezing and potential damage. This is especially important if your property has had issues with frozen pipes in the past.



Below is a list of actions that can help reduce the risk of frozen pipes:

- Let faucets drip: When temperatures drop significantly, run a trickle of water from a faucet closest to an exterior wall to maintain water flow and prevent freezing.
- Locate the shut-off valve: Know where your main water shut-off valve is located and be prepared to turn it off if necessary
- Open cabinet doors: Leave cabinet doors under sinks open to allow warm air to circulate around pipes.
- Disconnect hoses: Remove garden hoses from outdoor faucets and store them indoors to avoid freezing.
- Check for leaks: Regularly check for any signs of water leaks, including damp spots on floors or walls.

If you suspect a frozen pipe:

Apply gentle heat: Use a hair dryer or heating pad on the affected pipe, slowly thawing the ice. Do not use open flames or torches.

Contact a plumber: If you cannot thaw the pipe yourself or suspect a burst pipe, contact a licensed plumber immediately

For further information or concerns, please contact the Town of Belmont Water Department at 603-528-2677.



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



Avoid Frozen Pipes

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WINTER WEATHER WATER GUIDE HANDY TIPS TO KEEP YOUR PIPES FROM FREEZING

It's all about prevention ** * Frozen pipes can leave you without water in the worst of weather. And cost a lot to repair. But with a few simple steps, you can easily preserve both your budget and your peace of mind. ✵ * *

BEFORE COLD WEATHER SETS IN:

Check sprinkler or irrigation systems Make sure you've turned everything off and fully drained the system.

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Identify your home's freezing points Check your home for ppes in areas that might be prone to freezing, such as crawl spaces, unheated nooms, basements, garages, and exterior walls.

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shut off your water Locate your main water shut-off valve. You may want to tag or label it so you don't have to search for it in an emergency. Strengthen your defenses Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines by closing off cravi spaces, foung drafty windows, insulating walls and attics, and plugging drafts around doors.

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Protect your pipes Where pipes are exposed to cold, wrap them with insulation or electrical pipe heater (even fabric or newspaper can help).

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WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING:



Keep water working Keep water moving through the pipes by allowing a small trickle of water to run.



Give pipes a helping hand If pipes run through cabinets or vanities, open the doors to let warmer room temperatures flow in.

Thaw pipes with warm air warming the air around it with a hair dryer or sace heater. Be sure not to leave space heaters unattended and avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.

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BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE:

Shut off the water immediately Don't attempt to thaw pipes without turning off the main shut-off valve

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Be careful turning water back on Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn the water back on and check pipes and joints for any cracks or leaks that might have been caused by freezing.

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WATER Department Notice

Unknown Water Service Line Material

Because of new federal requirements for lead in drinking water, water systems must notify water users that we do not have a record of the piping materials for individual water service lines. Letters have been mailed to all water system customers. The good news is that you can help your water system assess, and where necessary, make improvements to your water service lines.

If your property is serviced by a private well, this notice does not apply to you.

It is very important that the Town meet the federal requirements to determine if any properties in Belmont have lead service lines. We strongly encourage all water system users to reach out to us for assistance. Please call us at (603) 267-8300 xt 115 or email us at water@belmontnh.gov

We appreciate everyone's assistance with this important project!

Why are you receiving this letter?

Because of new federal requirements for lead in drinking water, water systems must notify you that we do not have a record of the piping materials of your water service line. You and other water system customers are receiving this or a similar letter. The good news is that you can help your water system assess, and where necessary, make improvements to your water service lines. Please contact us via the phone or email below for assistance to report your service line materials. Until then, please follow the simple steps below recommended for everyone to prevent potential exposure to lead in drinking water.

What are the Health Effects of Lead?

The Environmental Protection Agency requires we inform you the following: *Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or worsen existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these negative health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, and kidney, or nervous system problems.*

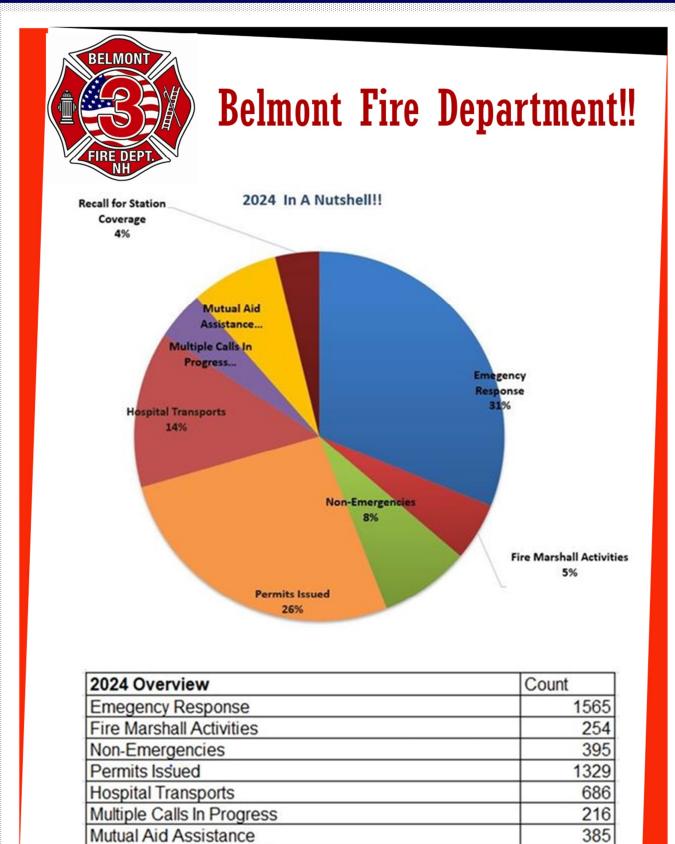
What Can I Do to Reduce Exposure to lead in Drinking Water?

In addition to your service line (see figure on back), other plumbing in your home may contain lead and could increase the levels of lead in your drinking water. These may include faucets, valves, and soldered joints. Please contact us via the phone / email below to request a free water test and to confirm your service line materials. if you're concerned about lead, the following measures can help you prevent potential lead exposure from any drinking water plumbing:

- Identify your service line materials. Contact your water system email / phone listed below for assistance to identify your service line materials.
- Run your water to flush out lead. If the water hasn't been used for several hours (such as in the morning), run the water for 1 minute or more to flush potential lead from interior plumbing before using it for drinking or cooking.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.
- Do NOT boil water to attempt to remove lead.
- For pregnant persons, infants, and young children, look for alternative sources or treatment of water such as bottled water or use water filters certified for lead removal.
- Identify and replace home plumbing fixtures containing lead.



Belmont Fire Department



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Recall for Station Coverage

Belmont Fire Department



Belmont Fire Department!!

2024 in a Nutshell!!

Belmont Fire Department (BFD) responded to a total of 1,565 Emergency Response Requests for Service calls (Fire & EMS). Out of the 1,565 calls for service, 385 (25%) of those calls were Mutual or Automatic Aid, which means that we were dispatched out of our jurisdiction for an incident, or another surrounding town was dispatched to assist BFD on an incident. Out of the 1,565 calls for service, 977 calls were medical related which is 62% of our call volume. Sometimes, multiple calls for service happen simultaneously, and we are unable to fulfill a call ourselves. We depend on our Mutual Aid Partners to assist us, and in turn, we assist them when they need assistance. While committed to a call(s), we have been dispatched to an additional call 216 times throughout the year. We also provided 686 transports to Concord Hospitals. (Laconia-595, Concord-84 and Franklin-7). BFD continues to exceed the number of calls we have responded to in previous years.

Description of Line Items Below (Not all inclusive):

**Emergency Response - Fire and Emergency Medical Services

**Fire Marshal Activities - Primarily Inspections such as Place of Assembly, Sprinkler, Oil Burner & LP Tank, Life Safety, Fire Alarm, etc.

**Non-Emergencies - Activities & Events such as Fire Drills, Public Education, Training, Community Events, etc.

**Permits Issued - Permits issued for burning, oil burner installation, fireworks, blasting, etc.

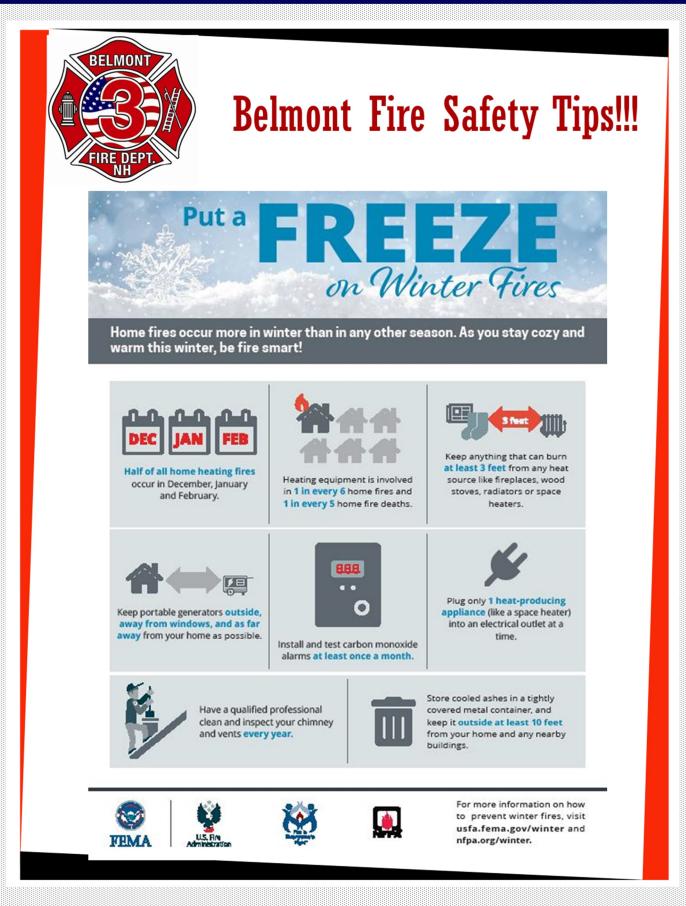
**Hospital Transports - Ambulance transports to Emergency Facility.

**Multiple Calls In Progress - The number of times more than one call is in progress at a time.

**Mutual Aid Assistance - Assisting our Mutual Aid Partners when needed due to fires, multiple calls in progress and they have exhausted their own resources and need help. In turn, they assist us when the same happens in our Town, so there is always someone to respond in an emergency.

**Recalls for Station Coverage - Personnel is not sufficient to handle another call due to other calls in progress. "Recalls' notify off-duty personnel that help is needed. This results in overtime pay.

Belmont Fire Department



Belmont Fire Department

Belmont Fire Department Continued...

Friendly Reminder when burning debris!!!

Prohibited Burning Construction & Demolition Debris and Household Trash

Materials Not Acceptable for Burning

- Construction & demolition debris
- Tires
- Household trash
- Packaging materials
- Plastics
- Coated or laminated paper
- Coated or treated cardboard
- Oily rags
- Animal, vegetable and kitchen waste
- Used Oil, gasoline and hazardous waste
- Brush greater than 5 inches in diameter
- Any wood that has been painted/ stained, glued, or treated in any way





- Campfire wood
- Charcoal
- Clean pallets

If generated on-site

- Brush (less than 5 inches in diameter)
- Clean lumber scraps (private single family residences only)

Burning construction & demolition debris and household trash releases toxic air pollutants, creates potentially hazardous ash, and puts your family, neighbors, and the environment at risk.



All burning must be conducted in accordance with local ordinances and under a "Permit To Kindle Fire" issued by the local Fire Warden or authorized agent.



Please contact DES at (603) 271-1370 for more information on open burning.



Belmont Police Department—Winter/Holiday Safety

<u>THANK YOU !!</u>

Retirements





We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Chief Lewandoski on his upcoming retirement from the Police Department. Chief Lewandoski's remarkable journey began in 1977 when he joined as a part-time officer, becoming a full-time member of the force in 1978. Over the years, he ascended through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain, ultimately becoming Chief in 2013. With 48 years of dedicated service, Chief Lewandoski has worn many hats-firearms instructor, member of the accident reconstruction team, undercover officer, department prosecutor, Police Explorer adviser, and even a hard hat as he was a key figure in the development and construction of our new police station. His unwavering commitment has shaped both the department and the community, and we would not be where we are today without his leadership.

We also want to express our deep gratitude to Sgt. Dave Estes, who will be retiring after over 30 years of service to the department. Sgt. Estes joined us in 1988 after his time in Gilford and has spent the last 17 years as our department's prosecutor; handling the department's legal matters at the District Court. Throughout his career, Sgt. Estes has been a pillar of strength, integrity, and dedication. His presence and legal expertise will be sorely missed, and his absence will certainly be felt across the department.



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

Belmont Police Department—Community Event

SKATING WITH YOUR FIRST RESPONDERS



HOSTED BY THE BELMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Join us for our first ever skating event. This will give you and your family the opportunity to meet and skate with local first responders throughout the Lakes Region.

02.15.2025 2:00pm - 3:30pm



468 PROVINCE ROAD LACONIA, NH 03246 TICKETS: \$6/PERSON 5 YRS AND UNDER - FREE SENIOR/MILITARY - \$3 SKATE RENTALS: \$6

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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



U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration







Belmont Police Department

A motor vehicle was stolen every 31 seconds in the United States in 2023.

Use common sense when parking and exiting your vehicle:

- Take your vehicle's key; do not leave it in or on your vehicle.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Park in well-lit areas if possible.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from outside the vehicle.

Thieves want vehicle parts and valuable items, too.

Radios and wheel covers aren't the only popular stolen vehicle parts thieves take. They want whatever sells, from the mandated labeled parts to those that aren't. Some of the most popular vehicle PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM THEFT

parts or valuable items stolen from vehicles include doors, engines, transmissions, air bags, radios, GPS units, cell phones, iPads, laptops, and purses.

Sources: NHTSA and NICB

How to Prevent Vehicle Theft

- Park in well-lit areas.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Keep valuables out of sight, such as in the glove box or trunk.
- Do not leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Do not leave the area while your vehicle is running.
- Some vehicles come equipped with an alarm and anti-theft system, but what if yours does not? Consider
 purchasing extra layers of protection for your vehicle if your manufacturer does not provide it. You can
 easily purchase an anti-theft system online or in a store.

Vehicle Theft Facts and Figures

For more information on motor vehicle theft prevention, visit <u>NHTSA.gov/theft</u>. For additional resources, visit <u>www.nicb.org/</u>.

In the United States, a vehicle is stolen every

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



SECONDS

NHTSA NHTSA.gov/theft

Property Tax Exemptions & Credits—Accepting Applications!

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****

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****

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

Belmont Parks & Rec—Summer Camp

REGISTRATION OPENS 2/18/25

BELMONT

PARKS & RECREATION

DAILY PLANNED ACTIVITIES

WEEKLY THEMES, SPORTS,CRAFTS, CONTESTS, FIELD TRIPS, BEACH DAYS, FREE PLAY AND MORE

REGISTRATION OPENS ON 2/18



https://forms.gle/KJ2spWZ8jyXnUneQ7

JUNE 30-AUGUST 8 CAMP WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY 8:00AM - 4:30PM

EARLY DROP OFF AT 7:30 AVAILABLE FOR \$25/WEEK

OPEN TO AGES 5-12 RESIDENTS \$175/WEEK NON-RESIDENTS \$200/WEEK

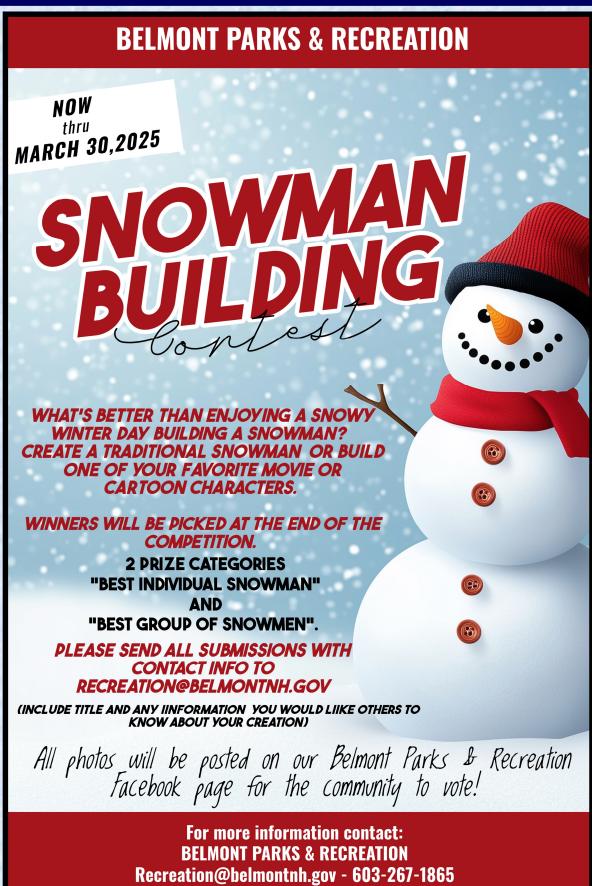
\$25/WEEK SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

FIELD TRIP FEES INCLUDED

1 WEEK DEPOSIT DUE UPON REGISTRATION TO HOLD SPOT REMAINDER FOR WEEKS 1-3 DUE 4/24 REMAINDER FOR WEEKS 4-6 DUE 5/30

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DANIELLE ST.ONGE (603) 267-1865 OR EMAIL RECREATION@BELMONTNH.GOV

Belmont Parks & Rec



Belmont Parks & Rec - Trivia Night



Property Fraud ALERT !!

- It is recommended that property owners help protect themselves against property fraud (also known as "land scams").
- It has become a more frequent problem where scammers with no ownership connect with a real estate agent to sell a property quickly. They may have received information about the property from publicly available records.
- The Property Fraud Alert system is connected directly to the Belknap County Registry of Deeds, where all property/real estate ownership transactions are registered.
- If you are signed up for alerts, any property transaction with your name will be reported to you in an effort to prevent you from being scammed.
- This is a FREE service!



Town of Belmont Building Department

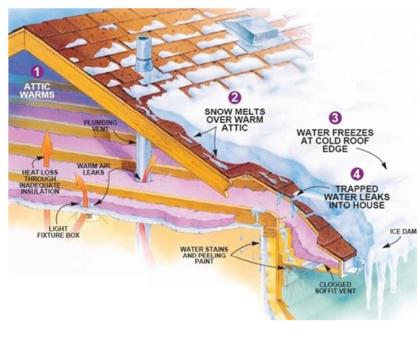
As winter continues to bring the cold weather, ice dams can become an issue. If you are experiencing an ice dam, consulting a professional roofing company can help mitigate the amount of damage done. They can also help prevent them in the future.

What are Ice Dams?

Ice dams form when snow melts and runs down the roof to the eaves, where it turns to ice. The "dam" created by the ridge of ice along the eaves can trap more melt water and result in significant water damage.

What Causes Ice Dams?

Ice dams occur when snow is present on the roof, the out-side temperature is below freezing, and the temperature is above freezing on the roof deck (the foundation or base upon which the entire roofing system depends). Most ice dams form when heat loss into the attic warms the under-side of sheathing plywood (the layer of material attached to the roof's structural frame) that serves as the base for shingles or other materials. Warm air causes snow on the roof deck to



melt and the melt water runs down to the colder edge of the roof where the water refreezes and leads to a buildup of ice and a backup of water — hence the term "dam."

Ice Dam Impacts

 Water damage to the sheathing, the roof structure, and the ceiling and walls below

- Falling ice can be fatal
- □ Weight of ice leads to structural collapse of roof overhangs
- Water leaks caused by ice dams can damage wall insulation and increase the potential for moisture problems and indoor air quality concerns.

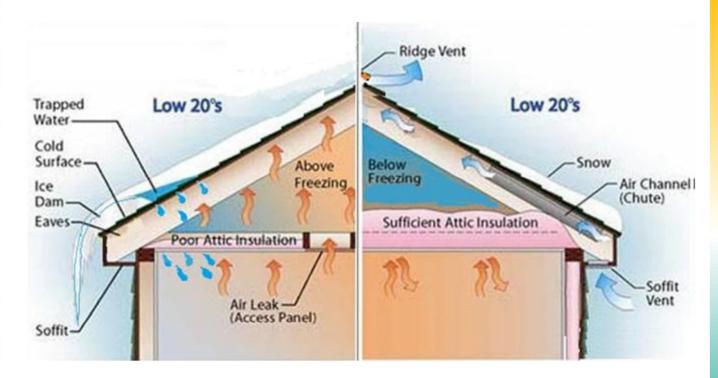
Building Official

Ice Dam Prevention & Repair

□ A home energy assessment can evaluate the building envelope and identify air sealing and insulation opportunities in order to alleviate the underlying problems of ice dams, rather than simply addressing the symptoms.

□Remove leaves and other debris from gutters in preparation for winter snowfall and to prevent ice build-up.

□ Reduce the temperature of the roof by reducing the ambient temperature in the attic. The roof must be as close as possible to the exterior temperature and areas of differential temperature should be reduced to mitigate the formation of ice dams. This can be accomplished by several methods, including:



- Sealing air leaks effectively in the attic to prevent heated interior air from leaking into the attic space and warming the roof deck
- Adding insulation in the attic floor to prevent radiant heat transfer from the home's interior
- Removing heat sources, like ductwork or hot water piping, from the attic space or, if this is not feasible, insulating them sufficiently.
- Provide a waterproof membrane above where the water will accumulate on the roof. The width of this membrane is affected by the roof pitch; steeper roofs will require a narrower membrane.
- Do not get on your roof or chip away at the ice from the ground if an ice dam does form. Both of these methods are dangerous and could cause damage to your roof.

Building Official

Shipping Containers

Shipping containers, also known as Conex boxes, have become increasingly popular as a storage solution for homeowners.

Please be aware that <u>a building permit is required</u> to place a storage container on your property. Containers must meet setback requirements, which vary depending on the zone in which your property is located.

Property owners are allowed a maximum of two containers on their lot in the Residential Multi-family, Residential Single Family, and Rural Zones. Storage containers are not a permitted use in the Village District.



If you have questions about placing a storage container on your property, please contact the Building Official at 603-267-8300 ext. 111.

If you are not sure which zone your property is located in, please contact the Land Use Office at 603-267-8300 ext. 3.

Land Use

In this issue >>>

Upcoming Meetings:

ARC – 2/20/2025 (if needed) Planning Board – 2/24/2025 Zoning Board – 2/26/2025



February **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 luoffice@belmontnh.gov



Application Review Committee (January 16, 2025)

Meeting canceled due to lack of applications.

Planning Board (January 27, 2025)

Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – **284 Property, LLC:** 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 (January 22, 2025)

<u>Abutter's Hearings – Robert Bonsignore;</u> Applicant is proposing to convert the second story of the existing garage to an accessory dwelling unit and is requesting a Special Exception to Article 5, Table 1. Property is located at 193 Plummer Hill Road in the "RS" Zone, Tax Lot 211-027-000-000.





Land Use

2025 Proposed Zoning Amendments

Warrant Article: 2

AMENDMENT 1

Article 4:J Agricultural Animals

Update Agricultural Use Table 1; Agricultural Animals (Lots greater than 1 acre) as a Permitted (P) use in the Residential Multifamily; Residential Single; and Rural Zones.

Currently the Ordinance language Article 4:J Agricultural Animals states that a minimum of one acre is required. As proposed by the Planning Board, this change would allow agricultural animals on lots greater than one acre in the Residential Multifamily, Residential Single and Rural Zones. Previously a Special Exception from the Zoning Board of Adjustment was required. All lots with agricultural animals, regardless of size, shall be subject to the application of the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food Manual of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Agriculture in New Hampshire, dated April 2002, as amended.

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

		Commer- cial	Industrial	Residential Multifamily	Residential Single	Rural	Village
Agi	ricultural Animals (Lots greater than 1 acre)	E	E	E -P	E -P	E -P	E

Warrant Article: 3

AMENDMENT 2

Article 15: Definitions

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment No. 2 to the Belmont Zoning Ordinance as proposed by the Planning Board as follows: add a new definition of motor vehicles as any self-propelled vehicle not operated exclusively on stationary tracks.

Currently the Ordinance language does not contain a definition of a motor vehicle. As proposed by the Planning Board, this would add a definition of Motor Vehicle as guided by NH RSA 259:60 to Zoning Ordinance Article 15: Definitions.

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.

Warrant Article: 4 (Petitioned)

AMENDMENT 3

To see if the Town of Belmont would vote to allow manufactured homes in the town on their own land.

The proposed Amendment 3 is a petitioned amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. At the January 6, 2025 meeting of the Planning Board, the Planning Board voted to not support the petitioned article as written. The language does not restrict manufactured homes to residential zones (Residential Multi-family; Residential Single Family; Rural; and Village Zones). This amendment, if it passes, would be advisory only as it is in conflict with Article 15 of the Zoning Ordinance.

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

Zoning Board

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

Conservation (2 vacancies)

Conservation Commission



Ice Safety

This Winter we have experienced unusual fluctuations in temperatures. As a result, larger bodies of water in the NH Lakes Region have not completely iced over and may be unsafe for typical seasonal recreation. In addition, Ice-Out Surface Aerators and De-icers are being used more frequently in our lakes.

New Hampshire Fish and Game advise using an ice chisel or auger to determine ice thickness, and avoid shorelines where the ice appears cracked or squishy.



Ice Thickness Chart Safe Ice Depths



Note: These are rough guidelines for clear ice only.

Maple Tapping Facts

Maple tapping season is upon us! The best time to tap Maple trees is mid-Winter into early Spring. Sap flows most freely in weather that exceeds 32 degrees during the day, and drops to below freezing at night.

Did you know it takes roughly 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup?

NEXT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING Wednesday, February 05, 2025 @ 6:00 PM Tioga Room, 4th 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

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 February 5, 19 2pm

Family Activities

STORY TIME

Storytime and activities for all under school age. **WEDNESDAYS at 10:30am**

MY FIRST BOOK CLUB

Family-led book discussion that encourages the enjoyment of reading.

SATURDAY February 15 11am

Nancy Drew & the Clue Crew: #12 Valentine's Day Secret

FRIDAY FILMS

Celebrate the end of the school week with a G or PG movie.

FRIDAYS at 3pm

SCHOOL VACATION SCAVENGER HUNT

Come in any day for a literary treasure hunt with small prizes. Kindergarten through sixth grade

February 22-March 1

February 2025

Book Groups

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

TEA & TALES BOOK CLUB THURSDAY February 13 4:30pm Women and Children First by Alina Grabowski

FRIDAY FICTION BOOK GROUP FRIDAY February 21 at 10:30am Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr

MYSTERY GROUP THURSDAY February 27 at 10am The Busy Body by Kemper Donovan

ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION

Available for use in the library

Ancestry Library Edition brings the world's most popular consumer online genealogy resource to your library. It's an unprecedented online collection of individuals from North America, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, and more.

MONDAY February 17

Library Closed

BELMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY

146 Main Street belmontpubliclibrary.org (603) 267-8331 MF 10-5 TWTH 10-6 Sa 9-1

Spotlight on the Cemetery Trustees



The Cemetery Trustees is an elected board of 3 members. Currently Hillary Horn, Fred Wells and Sharon Ciampi hold these seats. We also have 2 alternate positions. Our main job is to follow NH RSA 289, which governs the care and management of all cemeteries. This year we will have an article on the ballot to allow us to increase to a 5-member board.

RSA 289:2 states : Every municipality shall provide, or may enter into agreements with adjacent municipalities or nonprofit entities to provide, one or more suitable cemeteries for the interment of deceased persons, which shall be subject to such regulations as the municipality

may establish. In the absence of regulations established by vote of the legislative body, the cemetery trustees may establish such regulations pursuant to RSA 289:7, I(a). The operation and maintenance of all cemeteries owned and maintained by the municipality shall be in charge of the cemetery trustees.

The Belmont Cemetery Trustees were formed in 1994 but did not provide their first annual report until 1997 after patrons hinted that we were "slower than death", so it seemed important to include our report at that time.

It is important to note that the South Road Cemetery is a private corporation governed by its own board of directors and thus is separate from the Town. It is the only active cemetery for burials at this time.

To reflect current information, there are 36 cemeteries and burial grounds in Town. In April 2024 we went through the steps to have 7 cemeteries declared abandoned so the Trustees can serve as descendants of the people buried there. This gives the burial sites added protection that they may not have had with no authority over the graves. The Trustees are responsible for 24 cemeteries in total.

We do not have any employees, but we contract out for things like maintenance, tree work, or pest control and invasive plant species services as they arise.

We too were affected by the default budget. We were able to give some back this year to help with the total deficit, but we cut back on some of the extra brush removal to compensate. Mother Nature also plays a huge part in how much our season costs. We were fortunate enough that the ground cover flowering lasted a little longer to add to the beauty and feed the bees. We did not have any major windstorm clean up, so we were able to stay within budget.

Our biggest project of immediate need is Weymouth Cemetery. It is located on Brown Hill Road in the woods at the back of someone's property. While we knew its general location it had been several years since anyone on the Board had seen it. There is no record of who is buried there as the stones are broken or missing. There is a rumor that sometime in the 1920's a caretaker met a child at the wall outside while he cut the grass, and the child said that his dad took the stone to fix their cellar. This cleanup is going to be a big undertaking for the Board, possibly our biggest in the coming year. This will be paid for using our Capital Reserve Funds that taxpayers vote to grant us every year.

For the last 3 years the Trustees have partnered with the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association to do seminars on head stone cleaning and repair techniques. We are happy that we have had about 15 headstones repaired so far during these seminars. We also have a small group of volunteers who are trained in a strong preserving technique for cleaning, and we will continue with this project as long as we can. If you would like to see the progress being made you can visit Jamestown/Elkin Cemetery on Jamestown Road. This year we are hoping to move to Church Hill/ Highland and/or Wolcott Cemeteries.

If you have any interest in learning or want to help, please watch out for our flyers in the town-wide newsletter or

Spotlight on the Cemetery Trustees

reach out to the Trustees.

One of the things that we are most proud of is that we have been able to partner with American Legion Post 58 to bring Wreaths Across America to Belmont. This year we placed 215 wreaths across 14 cemeteries. It is such a beautiful sight to see. We would also like to mention that through fundraising and donations from residents and area businesses, we already purchased all of the wreaths for the December 13, 2025 ceremony during a matching grant sale from the organization. Thank you everyone who makes this happen for us. We appreciate your continued support.

As always, any questions problems or any thoughts to volunteering please reach out by calling 603-581-9746 or email us at <u>belcem2015@gmail.com</u>

Sincerely,

Hillary Horn

Fred Wells

Sharon Ciampi



Weymouth Cemetery



Wreaths Across America Program honoring our Veterans



Stone cleaning workshops hosted by the Cemetery Trustees

Heritage Commission



News from the Heritage Commission

Sign Marker replacements:

New replacement sign markers have arrived and will be switched out from the Bandstand and Belmont Mill granite posts. The old sign markers have weathered and are unreadable. The Heritage Commission will tend to replacing the old ones with the new ones in the Spring.



We Love Our Senior Citizens:





Our annual Valentine's Day *"We Love our Senior Citizens"* event will take place on February 14th. The Heritage Commission prepares goodie bags to give to Senior Citizens. Belmont Elementary students also add soup, crackers and handmade Valentine's Day cards to each bag. Our goal is to involve the youth of our Town in sharing acts of kindness and warm winter wishes to our elders.

We will be dropping off items to the residents at the Shaker Road Belmont Senior Housing, surprising them on Valentine's Day. If you or a Senior Citizen family member would like to be added to our Senior list to receive a February Valentine bag of goodies please contact Vicki Donovan, Chairman of the Heritage Commission at this email address: Heritagecommission@belmontnh.gov



Heritage Commission

Something New:

Something new we are adding to our newsletters are old Town photos. We hope you enjoy them!

THE BELMONT MILL

Postcard titled: Gilmanton Mills, Belmont NH of Belmont.

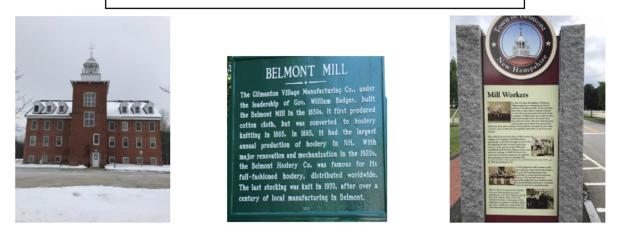


Photo: Titled: Belmont Hosiery Co. Makers of the famous "Grace Mae hosiery Belmont, Nh





Present Day: Mill Photo, Highway Marker and Mill Worker Sign



If you have any old photos you would like to share, please send them to this email address: Heritagecommission@belmontnh.gov and we will gladly add into future newsletters.

Thank you for your support,

Belmont Heritage Commission

Vicki Donovan (Chair), Claire Bickford (Vice Chair), Ben Rolfe (Secretary), Members: Priscilla Annis, Jack Donovan, Jill Rolfe, Chris Mooney (Alternate) and Travis O'Hara (Selectman Representative).

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

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

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



Emergency Preparedness—PPH & Granite VNA & Hospice



Date: Saturday February 8, 2025 Time: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM Location: Granite VNA & Hospice 708 North Main Street Laconia NH Cost: \$45.00 includes AHA certification card, participant manual and course materials.

Register & Payment Click here to register or use QR Code



AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION HeartSaver CPR, AED, FIRST AID





Babysitters encouraged and welcomed to regsiter for this training.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- First aid basics
- Medical emergencies
- Injury emergencies
- Environmental emergencies
- Preventing illness and injury
- · Adult CPR and AED use
- Opioid-associated lifethreatening emergencies
- Child CPR AED and Infant CPR

Empower Yourself to Save Lives

Join us for a life-saving workshop! Learn essential skills to respond confidently in emergencies. Our expert instructors will teach you how to:

- Perform CPR and use an AED
- Provide first aid for common injuries and illnesses
- Recognize and respond to cardiac arrest and choking

Don't wait until it's too late. Equip yourself with the knowledge and skills to make a difference in your community.

Contact jbeland@pphnh.org 603-707-5855

ERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

WayPoint SleepOut

WayPoint is one of Belmont's Health Agency Partners and here is an upcoming fundraiser they are hosting:



<u>SleepOut</u> is a night spent outside to raise awareness and funds to address critical needs and transform lives in New Hampshire. Proceeds from the event support New Hampshire's only low-barrier emergency youth shelter and safe space located in Manchester, youth drop-in centers in Manchester and Rochester, and a range of support services that lead to long-term stability.

SleepOut 2025 will look a little different than past editions. Rather than sleeping collectively in a public place, Advocates sleep outside remotely at a location of their choice. This change is in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2024 ruling in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, which allows municipalities to criminalize sleeping in public spaces.

We will still come together as a community! Join us on Friday, March 21, at 6:30 pm at Bronstein Park in Manchester (Beech and Hanover Streets) for an in-person gathering before Advocates across the state sleep out remotely to show their support for youth experiencing homelessness.

<u>Visit our website</u> to join SleepOut today and become an Advocate! To learn how to help support youth and young adults experiencing homelessness through SleepOut 2025, please contact Laura Zorawowicz at 603-518-4195 or <u>zorawowiczl@waypointnh.org</u>.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to end youth homelessness in NH!

Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction

Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction Earns a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

LACONIA—The Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction has been evaluated by Charity Navigator, the nation's largest charity evaluator, and earned a four-star rating, the highest possible assessment.

Charity Navigator's impartial, third-party evaluation validates that the organization is effective and reliable.



"This milestone achievement for the Children's Auction couldn't have happened without the community's support," said Jennifer Kelley, the auction's executive director. "Thank you for being part of our family as contributors, funders, donors of items, sponsors, bidders, challenge teams and volunteers. Your trust and support help us make a difference for the local children and families in need that we serve."

To learn more about Charity Navigator and the auction's rating, visit <u>charitynavigator.org/</u><u>ein/473815882</u>.

For more information, to donate or volunteer, visit <u>childrensauction.org</u> or call 603-527-0999.

About the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction:

Numerous fundraising events in the Lakes Region throughout the year support the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, including our four-day signature event every December. In the past four decades we have distributed more than \$8.6 million to over 80 nonprofits that serve low-income families and children in the Lakes Region, all through volunteer efforts, community donations and corporate sponsorship. The Auction falls under the umbrella of the Greater Lakes Region Charitable Fund for Children, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps local community organizations that serve children and families in need. For more information about the Auction, the nonprofits it supports and how you can help, visit childrensauction.org.

Greater Lakes Region Charitable Fund for Children, Inc is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization

383 South Main St., Laconia NH 03246 *Federal Tax ID # 47-3815882* Trash & Recycling Calendar 2025

Full year 2025 calendars available at <u>https://belmontnh.gov/Pages/</u> <u>lndex/50738/solid-waste</u> or post card calendars can be picked up at Town Hall.

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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, February 11, 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.

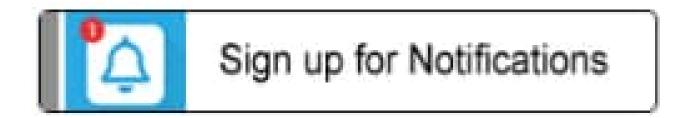
Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to Feb. 28 for a \$15 e gift card rcblood.org/flurry



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".

