



FROM YOUR TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

# TOWN OF BELMONT

January 1, 2022

Happy New Year! Here is the Town Administrator's bulletin for the month of January. The information below provides continued information on public forums, Select Board initiatives and updates.

## **Public Forums, Input Sessions and Town Meeting (live, or may have remote participation option):**

- **Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 9am, MLK Breakfast:** Belmont's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Virtual Community Celebration. Register at [bit.ly/MLKBelmont2022](https://bit.ly/MLKBelmont2022). For more information contact Belmont Human Rights Commission at 617-993-2795 or [Belmont.hrc@gmail.com](mailto:Belmont.hrc@gmail.com).
- **Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, Leaf Blower Bylaw Public Forum at 7pm Virtual:** The Select Board will be holding a public forum for the proposed Leaf Blower bylaw. This is the second forum on a Leaf Blower Bylaw, and the Board is looking for public input to determine if a Leaf Blower Bylaw should be brought to Town Meeting in the spring.
- **Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> 8am-1pm, Cardboard ONLY Event at the DPW Yard:** Preregistration is required, check website for more details.

## **Select Board Initiatives:**

- **FY23 Operating Budget:** The FY23 Operating Budget planning has begun with all Town Departments. The Town will present its budget in early February. The Town will be looking to use a large amount of One-Time Revenue, including Free Cash and American Rescue Plan (ARPA), to fund the operating budget. A joint meeting will be scheduled with the Select Board, School Committee, Warrant Committee and Capital and Long Term Budget Committees, where the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget will be presented.
- **The Group Insurance Commission (GIC):** The GIC provides and administers health insurance and other benefits to state employees and retirees, and their dependents and survivors. The commission also provides coverage to participating municipalities, including active and retired municipal employees and teachers in certain governmental units. The Town of Belmont is not currently a member of the GIC. We are self-insured. There have been internal conversations as to whether or not it would be cost effective to join the GIC. Preliminary analysis has been done on the costs to join the GIC. The Select Board has recently discussed such a move, but given the information from the Town's health consultant, the Select Board has decided to wait until the GIC goes out to bid in 2022 for an effective date of July 2023 (FY24). This will give the Town a more accurate analysis as to the costs of joining the GIC. The Town would also have to understand the unions perspective and views on such a move. We look forward to those discussions later this year.

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- Parking Restrictions PILOT:** To address a variety of traffic issues resulting from student parking on side streets near Belmont High School, the Select Board has voted for a trial of parking restrictions on the following streets effective January 3, 2022 and scheduled to end January 28, 2022:

No parking from 7 am to 10 am	
Goden St (below School)	School St (between Goden and Stone)
Oak St	Trowbridge St
Orchard St (below School)	Underwood St
Orchard Circle	Baker St
Concord Ave Eastbound (Cottage St to Louise Rd)	

The restrictions will be in effect on days when school is in session. The restrictions will not apply to commercial vehicles, vehicles on public business, or vehicles that display a valid parking placard.

At this time, it is planned to make parking placards for the streets listed above available only to residents of those streets. Please contact the Police Department for more information on placards; 617-993-2525.

**Community Updates:**

**Fire Department**

Three firefighter recruits will begin their training at the Belmont Fire Department. According to Fire Chief David DeStefano the three will undergo initial training at the department, then attend the Massachusetts Fire Academy to obtain certification as firefighters. Upon their return they will join the ranks alongside other members of the fire department assigned to work on one of four rotating shifts in the Operations Division. The recruits are Peter Donovan, John Conaty and Matthew McCabe.

