



Belmont
MASSACHUSETTS
The Town of Homes

From the Office of The Town Administrator

Belmont Bulletin

July 2024



July

Select Board Meetings

| M | T | W | T | F |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Regular Meeting 7PM

Contact the Town Administrator's Office

Address:
 455 Concord Ave.
 Belmont, MA 02478

Email:
townadministrator@belmont-ma.gov

Phone: 617-993-2610



To view a digital version of this month's Bulletin, please scan the QR Code.

Summertime is in full swing! We hope that everyone had a happy and safe July 4th and are enjoying the sunshine, the smell of freshly cut grass, tasty meals on the grill and your favorite ice cream! Please don't forget to keep cool and stay hydrated!

Around Town, things remain as busy as ever as we look ahead to the good work to come this month and last month's accomplishments. So, take a momentary break from the heat and enjoy the Town Administrator's Bulletin for the month of July!

Select Board News and Initiatives:

Annual Appointments for Town Committees, Commissions and Boards:

Members of the Belmont Community interested in volunteering to serve on one or more of our Town's Committees are welcome to apply through our [online application portal](#) or QR Code. Additionally, *current* committee members seeking to renew or continue their committee membership can submit their applications through the [online application portal webpage](#) on the Town of Belmont website.

Please Scan the QR Code to submit a new or renew an existing Committee Volunteer Application



Belmont Farmer's Market

The 19th Belmont Farmers' Market season started on June 6th and will continue each Thursday until October. Hours are 2-6:30 pm on Thursdays. The Market is in the Belmont Center parking lot. Get more information at www.belmontfarmersmarket.org.

Keep Up with the Select Board



Use the links below to watch the most recent Select Board Meetings on Belmont Media's Website.

- [June 3, 2024](#)
- [June 5, 2024](#)
- [June 10, 2024](#)
- [June 17, 2024](#)
- [June 26, 2024](#)
- [June 28, 2024](#)

Find archived Select Board Minutes [here](#).



Dana Gillis

Systems Manager, Belmont Facilities Department

Each month, Town Administrator Patrice Garvin highlights a single employee whose hard work and dedication exemplifies what it means to be an employee for the Town of Belmont. In the Employee Spotlight series, we are able to shine a light on incredible employee achievements and provide an opportunity to introduce and recognize Belmont Town employees throughout the Belmont community.

In this month's Bulletin, Town Administrator Garvin would like to recognize Dana Gillis, the Town of Belmont's Systems Manager in the Facilities Department. Beginning in 2018, Dana has for 6 years been a steadfast member of the Facilities team, playing a vital role in operation and maintenance of Town buildings.

As Systems Manager, Dana provides supervision, upkeep of a preventative maintenance schedule and technical expertise to ensure that buildings are operational by specifically managing building HVAC equipment and automation controls. Under the leadership of Belmont's Director of Facilities Management, David Blazon, Dana helps to manage the building operations of over one-million square feet of building space across 18 Town and School buildings. David Blazon described Dana as a "dedicated professional who is well-experienced at what he does and is an important member of our team."

From an early age Dana found himself interested in how things worked. He explains, "it's hard not to get my hands dirty. I've always been interested in the mechanical side of things. Even as a kid I can remember taking apart toys and putting them back together." Dana is a "Mr. Fix-it" for sure, and the hands-on approach of someone who rebuilt a '79 Camaro in his driveway when he was young does not go unnoticed here in Belmont.

Belmont wasn't an unfamiliar place when Dana joined the Facilities team, as he explains: "I've been a life-long resident of Waltham—so not too far away. I can remember back when I was playing hockey in High School and we played a few games against Belmont at the old rink." So, when Dana came to Belmont after working as a pipefitter for 28 years, he had an idea of the community. In 2018, when Dana was hired as the Town's HVAC Technician, his pipefitting experience served him well. After excelling as the HVAC Tech, Dana began his current role of Systems Manager in 2021. This is a credit to Dana's drive, consistent attention to detail on the job and overall ability.

Dana didn't mention who came out on top in those hockey games of his youth, but it's safe to assume that he didn't see himself at the time helping to manage the operations of the old Belmont hockey rink, let alone, being one of the many shepherds of Belmont's soon to be new hockey rink. Dana has come to contribute much toward the changing face of many Town and School buildings. From the "very first shovel in the ground" to today he has helped to be a part of seeing the Belmont Middle and High School Building Project come to fruition and now is making contributions to the development of the new library and rink.



With new projects changing and updating Town and School buildings for current and future generations, Dana and the other Facilities team members recognize the importance of their role to maintain these community spaces. Dana explains, "The Facilities Department is maintenance focused, we want to make sure that we are keeping up the maintenance on all the equipment in these buildings new and existing to ensure that they function for the entirety of their usable life."

The importance of maintenance comes into focus when Dana considers his work over the past six years. "I am really proud to have played a role on the Belmont Middle and High School project. I was able to work closely with the contractors to make sure that Belmont received a building that it can be proud of. Now, we have the responsibility to maintain it and that means understanding its operations, maintaining an energy plan to achieve net-zero energy and keeping up preventative maintenance to keep Belmont proud of it."

Additionally, Dana discussed the importance of maintenance assessments to the Town's existing buildings including the Wellington School. "We are in the process of recommissioning the HVAC systems at the Wellington School, which should be completed in time for the students returning to school. Just with the work we have already completed, we have already noticed a significant decrease in work order submissions." The completion of this maintenance will help create better conditions for both teachers and students to do what they do.

Dana's day-to-day work doesn't come without its challenges, especially when it comes to regulating the temperature across 18 Town and School buildings in a New England climate or trying to maintain equipment that, in some instances, has passed its useful life. Dana faces these challenges with the following approach: "I take one day at a time and try to maintain a positive attitude each day. There is always going to be a problem to solve and some problems may need to be solved more than once. It's good to leave work at work and have a thick skin."

Outside of work Dana enjoys spending time with his family, boating, fishing, woodworking, working on cars and taking on projects around the house. Dana would also like to acknowledge his fellow Town and School employees and express his gratitude for the good work they do.

Community Updates:

Belmont Fire Department

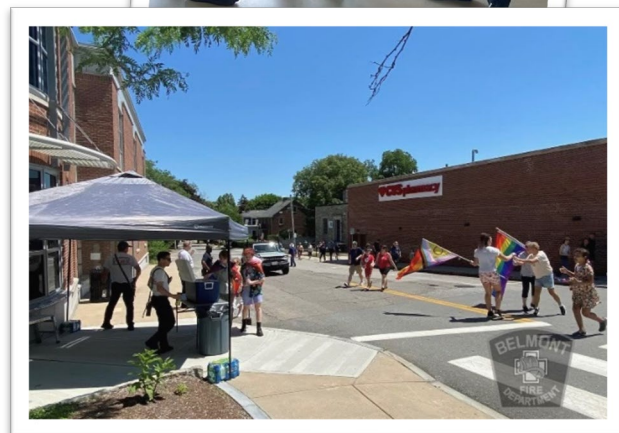
The Belmont Fire Department recently responded to a house fire on Agassiz Ave. There were no injuries reported, but the roof of the home suffered damage as a result of the fire. The following day, Belmont Fire assisted our mutual aid partners from the City of Chelsea, and many other Metrofire communities at their 5-alarm fire involving a large mixed-use commercial/residential occupancy. Large fires such as this can occur in any community, and the ability to draw on resources from several partner agencies is a major operational advantage that is available to each city or town in Metrofire.

On June 3rd, the Fire Department welcomed new Firefighter on Probation Nicholas Furey. FFOP Furey comes the BFD already trained as a firefighter/paramedic, and with numerous years of experience both in Massachusetts and Washington, DC. After several weeks of orientation, FFOP Furey was assigned to Group 4 in the Operations Division.

Also in June, Lt. Dan Scannell was presented with the Massachusetts Career Firefighter Award for 25 years of service. Lt. Scannell is the senior lieutenant on the Department and is assigned to Ladder 1 at Station 2 in Belmont Center.

Our EMS Bike Unit members participated in a bike rodeo at the Winn Brook School along with the Police and Recreation Departments. Helmet and lights were given out and safe riding skills were reinforced. Also, in partnership with the Recreation Department, the Belmont Fire Department provided our annual safety orientation for lifeguards at the Underwood Pool. The importance of working as a team, and the capabilities of each organization was outlined to provide the most efficient level of care should an emergency occur.

On June 15th, the Belmont Fire Department supported the Annual Pride Parade. Chief DeStefano and Asst. Chief Tobio walked in the event, and all the firefighters on duty at Station 2 in Belmont Center were outside to greet participants with ice cold water, and a tent to shelter from the Sun.



Belmont Police Department

The Belmont Police Department has kept busy over the past months. Last month, the May month in review department statics were posted on the Belmont Police Dept. Facebook page reporting 35 motor vehicle crash responses, 18 Summons/arrests, 75 Co-responder responses and 2,044 overall calls for service.

Additionally on Thursday June 13, 2024, Belmont Police Chief James MacIsaac along with command staff attended the graduation ceremony for the Cambridge-Northeastern Police Academy R.O.C 006 Class. Incoming Belmont Police Officer James Parsons graduated after a 23-week intensive academy program hosted by the Cambridge- Northeastern Police Academy.

Chief MacIsaac and the Police department would like to encourage members of the community who have questions, concerns or suggestions about public safety and other matters related to the Police Department to email the Chief MacIsaac directly at Chief@belmontpd.org.

We encourage you to keep-up with Belmont Police Department News by following their [Facebook page](#).

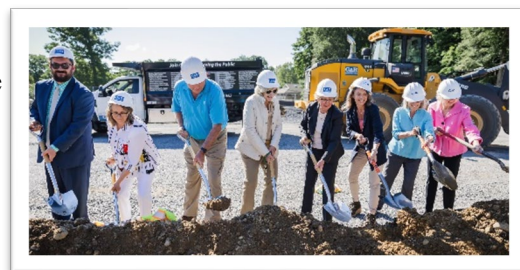


Officer Parsons is pictured to the right after being sworn in by Town Clerk Ellen O'Brien Cushman today, Friday June 14, 2024.

Belmont Public Library

It has been 25 years in the making! On June 12, many attendees gathered with local leaders to put the shovels in the ground, and officially kick-off our Library building construction at our Groundbreaking Ceremony. Our Master of Ceremonies for the morning was Chair of the Building Committee Clair Colburn, who shared the microphone with Library Trustee Chair and Building Committee Member Kathy Keohane, Select Board Chair Elizabeth Dionne, Senator Will Brownsberger, and others. It was a great moment to kick off construction, and an important opportunity to thank the many individuals (like all of you) who helped us at various points along this journey. The event was filmed and is available for viewing on the [library website](#). Our sincere thanks to patrons, staff, our donors, local officials, decades of committees and partnerships and the voters, who all worked together to make this dream a reality.

In closing this month, a note of sad news: we were informed last week that our long-time custodian John Marshall, who has been retired for about a year, passed away after a short illness. If you were a visitor to the old library, you most definitely would have caught a glimpse of John somewhere in the building. He was a big reason behind the enjoyment so many experienced at the library; you just didn't know it. John Marshall was the life blood of the library building on Concord Avenue. He was a good friend to many, with a great sense of humor. If not for his decades of service to our Town, the old building never would have survived as long as it did. We'll carry his memory with us into the new building and work to take care of the it with the same energy and thoughtfulness that he showed as the custodian of the old building. [We'll never forget you, John.](#)



Town Clerk's Office

TOWN
CLERK

As we enjoy the warm weather and sunshine, please review the following announcements from the Town Clerk's Office.

YARD SALE PERMITS – Do you enjoy shopping at yard sales? Will you have a yard sale soon? Remember that a permit is required - use the [Town's online Yard Sale Permit page](#) to get your required FREE permit and to see the list of sales in Belmont to plan your shopping excursion. People use it not only to get their free permit (required) but also to see where sales will be! Happy selling & shopping!

MASSACHUSETTS' ELECTIONS WEBSITE – With upcoming elections in mind, check out the website www.voteinma.com. On this site you may register to vote, verify your voter registration, change your voter registration, check where your precinct votes, request vote by mail ballots, track mailed ballots, and other election-related actions.

ELECTIONS – Belmont will have two more elections in 2024 – September 3 (State Primary), and November 5 (Presidential Election). Make a plan to vote! You may vote on Election Day at your precinct location or vote early in person at Town Hall or vote by mail. To vote in the September 3rd Primary, you must be registered to vote by August 24, 2024. To vote in the November 5th Election, you must be registered to vote by October 26th. Go to www.voteinma.com to register to vote or to verify/update your registration or find where you should vote on Election Day or to track the progress of your Vote by Mail ballot.

VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY – All of Belmont's eight voting precincts will be open for voting from 7 AM to 8 PM on Election Days. Check your voting precinct and location at www.voteinma.com

EARLY VOTE IN PERSON – There will be early voting available only at Town Hall for the September 3rd Primary and the November 5th Election. For September 3rd Primary early voting in person will be available at Town Hall beginning Saturday, August 24th and ending on Friday, August 30th. For November 5th Election early voting in person will be available at Town Hall beginning Saturday, October 19th and ending on Friday, November 1st. Check the [Town website](#) for dates and times of In-Person Early Voting for each election.

EARLY VOTE BY MAIL – In July the Secretary of the Commonwealth will mail a postcard to every registered voter who has not yet requested a vote by mail ballot for September or November. If you would like ballots mailed to you, please submit one signed written request (postcard OR letter OR application OR online portal www.voteinma.com). Please file only once – duplicate requests cause delays. If you are registered as Unenrolled/No Party, you must select a party ballot for the Primary; if no party is selected no Primary ballot can be sent. You may check whether or not you've already requested ballots at www.voteinma.com.

SEPTEMBER 3RD MASSACHUSETTS PRIMARY – All registered voters are eligible to vote in the Massachusetts State Primary. Voters who are Unenrolled/No Party (“independent”) must choose one party ballot (Democratic, Libertarian, or Republican) to vote in the Primary; Ballot choice will not change their voter registration.

TOWN CLERK SECURE DROP BOX – Located on left side of driveway at the base of the stairs near Town Hall entrance. You may deposit ballot requests, voted ballots, pet license applications, census forms. Only material for the Town Clerk should be placed here; taxes and parking ticket payments should be put in the silver Treasurer's drop box on the right side of the driveway outside the Homer Building.

ELECTION WORKERS – Join our terrific team of election workers to help make democracy work! We offer minimum wage & excellent training. Two Election Day shifts are half day (6am – 1:15pm or 1:00pm – close of polls). Get more details or apply [online](#).

Council on Aging

The Beech Street Center is bubbling with activity this July! Check out some highlighted events and announcements below. Please visit the [Beech Street Center's website](#) for more information and a complete list of events. Additionally, please check out the Beech Street Center News Letter available on the Beech Street Center's website or by [clicking here](#).



Water Aerobics with Susan returning in July!

Underwood Pool. The class will meet on Wednesdays from 8:00 - 9:00am beginning on July 3rd!

Low Back Pain & Posture Workshop

Tue Jul 9th 10:00am - 11:00am

Orthopedic physical therapist, Klaus Dobra and Trupti Tanna, will address common back injuries/pain. Ways to relieve back pain symptoms and posture control techniques to minimize back pain. **Please call 617-993-2970 to register.**

Michael Leidig Piano

Fri Jul 12th 1:15pm - 2:15pm

Please join us in welcoming pianist Michael Leidig back to the Beech Street Center for this summer concert with a patriotic playlist! Michael is a classical, jazz and modern rock pianist who performs throughout the Boston area as well as Baltimore MD, Raleigh, NC and Ocala, FL He promotes musical appreciation through live performing and historical accounts of the lives of the composers. He currently teaches at Northeastern University. **Call 617-993-2970 to register.**

Summer Strings of Passion with Susan Wright Regan

Fri Jul 19th 1:15pm - 2:15pm

Join harpist Susan Wright Regan for her "Summer Strings of Passion" concert at the Beech Street Center! The performance will be accompanied by stories, videos and slide shows that are brought to life by beautiful, joyful, relaxing live harp music. It will be a fun experience for the senses. **Please call 617-993-2970 to register.**

Paris Olympics Opening Ceremony Watch Party

Fri Jul 26th 1:15pm - 2:15pm

The Paris 2024 Olympics run from July 26th to August 11th! Join us at the Beech Street Center to watch the televised broadcast of the opening ceremony. Come cheer on the athletes as they get ready to represent their countries in two weeks of games! **Please call 617-993-2970 to register.**

Recreation Department

The Belmont Recreation Department is geared up for a fun-filled and active summer season! There is lots to do and take part in from T-ball to camp programs to a cool dip in the Underwood Pool. For more information take a moment and explore the Rec Department website at belmontma.myrec.com.

This month the Rec Department is announcing its Summer Movie Series! Butter up the popcorn and join us at Town Field for our movie nights under the stars! Enjoy seven family friendly films in the great outdoors over the course of the summer starting July 11th. Knucklebones Games and a Food Truck (when available) will run from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Movies will begin when the sun goes down usually around 8:00pm. Don't forget to bring bug spray and a blanket!

