We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gretta Olson-Wilder for all the wonderful events including Old Home Day which she has organized over the past several years. Gretta will be leaving her position as Special Events Coordinator as of November 30th and we will miss her. We wish she and her family the best.

We are currently taking applications for the position and any one interested is encouraged to apply. A positive attitude and super high energy are a must for the job.

2019 Tax Rate $25.01

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<th>Change 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal (Town)</td>
<td>$7.98</td>
<td>down $1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local School</td>
<td>$13.89</td>
<td>down $2.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>State School</td>
<td>$1.89</td>
<td>down $0.44</td>
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<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>$1.25</td>
<td>down $0.22</td>
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September 1st. If you need assistance completing the form, please stop by the Assessing Office or the Town Administrator’s Office and we will be happy to assist you. Also, as a reminder if you are over age 65 or will be prior to April 1, 2020, please contact the Assessing Office to determine if you are eligible for an Elderly Exemption.

The Town is required by law to conduct a full revaluation every 5 years; our last full revaluation was in 2014 at which time the market was flat and property values overall saw a decrease. The sales used for our most recent revaluation were for the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2019 and the market has seen a significant upturn. The goal of a revaluation is to bring all properties uniformly to 100% of market value; overall the Town’s value increased by about 20% from the 2018 level.

We continue to remind all taxpayers to stop by Town Hall and obtain a copy of your property record card to ensure that the data is correct, such as number of bedrooms, bathrooms, floor coverings, etc.

2020 Budget

The Budget Committee will meet next on Tuesday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Corner Meeting House and agendas are posted on the Town’s website at www.belmontnh.org. Selectmen and Budget Committee meetings are televised live at https://livestream.com/belmontnh.
The Town’s 2020 Deliberative Session is scheduled for Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Belmont High School.

**IT is the LAW! (RSA 466:31 II (c))**

Our message to all Dog Owners is to remind you of the importance of picking up your dog’s waste from property not your own. The town installed at three different locations, dog waste stations where you can obtain a plastic bag to pick up the waste and deposit it in the numerous garbage cans located in the Village.

![If Your Dog Poops](image)

Following is a link to a video developed by our recycling vendor to help us recycle better. Better recycling leads to lower costs for trash disposal as whatever we can remove from the trash stream reduces the tonnage we pay for. Your help is needed! [www.bit.ly/recyclebetter](http://www.bit.ly/recyclebetter)

The Casella site on Route 140 is open on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 8 am to 12 noon to take your bulky and other non-trash items. Please check with the attendant regarding any fees due at the time of disposal.

**What’s Flushable or Not**

We continue to stress the importance of the “Not everything is flushable”, please check the “Do Not Flush!” list to protect your sewer and septic system. A “Flushable” label does not mean it is SAFE for your septic system or the Town’s sewer. Please read the brochure we have included on the Town’s website at [www.belmontnh.org](http://www.belmontnh.org). We need your help to ensure our sewers keep flowing.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Administrator’s Office at 267-8300 ext. 124.

![Lakes Region Public Access](image)

Just a reminder that the Town of Belmont is an active member of Lakes Region Public Access Television which can be seen locally on Atlantic Broadband Channels 24, 25, and 26. If you are a camera buff and you have an interest in producing a show to be shown on LRPA, please contact the station at 528-3070 to discuss your idea. LRPA has made significant strides to improve programming this past year and its presence in the Lakes Region; we urge you to check out their website at [http://lrpa.org](http://lrpa.org).

**Town Hall will be closing at 1:00 p.m. on December 24th and we will be closed all day on the 25th; we will reopen at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 26th.**
Season’s Greetings!

We here in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s office hopes the holiday season finds everyone merry and well.

The month of December also brings with it the second issue tax bills. The second issue bills are due Monday December 9, 2019 and cover the period from October 1st – March 31st. The Town’s recent re-evaluation is also reflected in the second issue tax bill this year. Residents have the option of mailing in a check along with the payment stub, stopping by our office to make payment or paying on our Town’s website www.belmontnh.org. Please keep in mind that if you are paying via the website there is an additional convenience fee added to the total.

Our office accepts cash, check or credit/debit card for payment, if using a card, whether in person or online, there will be an additional 2.79% convenience fee added to the total. We cannot accept card payments over the phone.

Our fourth issue water/sewer bills will also be hitting mailboxes this month. The fourth issue covers the months from September through November and will be due in January. The above mentioned payment options apply to the utility bills as well.

With the end of 2019 fast approaching we are given the opportunity to ring in 2020 full of optimism and resolution as well as renew boat registrations and dog licenses. We can help with both in our office!

2020 is going to be a very busy election year! If you are in need of absentee ballots or voter registration and information, please give us a call or an email, we are here to help. The first election of the year will be the Presidential Primary in which the Republican and Democratic parties choose their candidates for the General Election in November. The date of the Primary is Tuesday February 11, 2020. We hope to see you at the polls!

Stay warm this winter!
Prevent Gun Theft

Belmont Police Department

Captain Richard Mann

Every year we have firearms reported stolen in Town. This year is no exception. The best way to keep your weapons secure is to use a reliable gun safe. A lockable fire-resistant documents holder is not a gun safe. A fire-resistant document holder has a completely different function than keeping your weapon safe.

A well-made gun safe is expensive, a pain to move, and can take up a lot of room, it’s also the best protection for your guns from any unwanted access. Thieves seldom have the tools required to get into a quality safe. If you’ve layered your home security with an alarm system, Wi-Fi cameras or other ways to limit the amount of time a criminal is able to spend in your house, it’s unlikely they will have time to get into your safe even if they do have the proper tools and knowledge.

Unfortunately, a decorative storage cabinet is easy to pry open. Bolting them down or framing them in so it’s not easily removed, combined with limiting the thief’s time in your home will increase the effectiveness of any safe.

Small “quick-access” or nightstand type safes are common. Any small safe should really be secured in some other way (like being bolted to a fixed object) so it can’t be easily removed from the home and opened at a later time. There are a number of “in plain sight weapon concealers” on the market that look like pictures, paintings or decorations.

Although these allow quick access to your firearm, most offer little in the way security. Usually a magnet opens an access door. The best way to lower your risk of losing a firearm is to keep them behind layered security. Ideally firearms in the home should be stored in a safe that’s either too heavy to haul away or secured to a fixed object or wall.

Having photos of your weapons available along with details of the type, caliber, model and serial number, will aid police in entering them into a stolen firearm database making them easier to recover.

Taking just a few extra measures now will reduce the risk of your firearms falling into the wrong hands in the future. Call us if you have any questions at 267-8350.
Highway Department News

Farewell

We would like to thank Gerrie Mitchell for her 13 years of service running the front desk at the Public Works Department. Her last day will be November 22nd. We all hope you have a happy and healthy retirement!!

Roadway Maintenance

You might notice our crews out removing leaves from drainage ditches and along many of our roads with our rather large leaf collector. Many people ask why we do this. Leaves tend to form dams that divert the water and cause the edges of roadway to be washed out during heavy rains. Cleaning the leaves and debris from these ditches and catch basins makes it easier for the water to flow without interruption. By removing these leaves, we are able to save roads from washing out, saving the taxpayers money. Unfortunately, this is not an invitation to pile your leaves on the side of the road and in the ditches for us to pick up. Property owners are responsible for disposal of the leaves from their property. We would also appreciate homeowners not putting leaves in the ditches for us to remove. This task is not the Towns responsibility.

Parking Ban

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

The Park and Ride has a 72-hour parking limit. If you must park there during a storm, we ask that you park in the rear of the lot. This makes it much easier for us to maintain it for other users. Thank You!
Highway Department News

Public Winter Sand

A new winter sand stockpile for the residents of Belmont has been completed outside of the Hurricane Rd. facility. This will allow for residents to obtain sand while we maintain a secure and safe facility. A friendly reminder, if you need winter sand for your driveway, we have a three 5-gallon pail limit. Don’t forget winter is right around the corner! SORRY

Roadside Trash Pickup

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

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

Construction Season Is Always Upon Us

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

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

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

Driveway Culvert Maintenance

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

Mailbox Location and Homeowner Responsibility

It is the property owner’s responsibility to maintain and properly locate their mailbox. The front of the mailbox should be located no closer than 2’ from the edge of the pavement and should be a minimum 46” high to the bottom of the supporting post. We recommend a height of 46” as this will accommodate the wing of our plows to go under and not come in contact with the mailbox or the supporting post. We also recommend a metal mailbox; plastic will not hold up in the extreme cold weather. If for some reason your mailbox is damaged, the postmaster for the Town of Belmont should be contacted to verify proper installation was performed before contacting the DPW. See photo below for a recommended installation: A model has been installed at the Belmont Post Office for the public to view.

- Metal USPS approved mailbox
- Front edge 2’ from the edge of road
- 46” in height (This allows for Plow Wing to go under without hitting)
- Main post minimum 4’ back from edge of road and post should be at least 2’ in the ground
Planning and Zoning Committee News

Winter Solstice Day
December 21

Application Review Committee (11/14/19)

- **Robert Lord**: Review of subdivision and site plan relative to the relocation of the Gale School to 60 Concord Street where it will be placed on a tract to be subdivided, then rehabilitated and developed for the provision of community services. Property located at 60 Concord Street, Tax Lot 126-026-000-000, Village Zone. #22-19R & #23-19R

Planning Board (11/25/19)

- **Public Hearing – Pike Industries**: Continuation of a request for Earth Excavation approval to increase quarry depth. Property is located at 308 Depot Street, Tax Lots 235-058-000-000, 232-031-000-000 & 236-014-000-000 in the “I” & “R” Zones. PB# 1019P.

- **Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – James M. & Mary Bolduc and Wayne Blackburn**: Request for Boundary Line Adjustment approval to transfer 0.21 acres from tax lot 122-104-000-000 to tax lot 122-102-000-000 and 0.01 acres from tax lot 122-102-000-000 to 122-104-000-000. Property is located at 17 & 11 Gale Street, in the “V” Zone. PB #2219P.

- **Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – Mountain Made Materials**: Request for Earth Excavation approval to expand existing excavation area including blasting. Property is located at 224 Hurricane Road, Tax Lot 231-014-000-000 in the “R” Zone. PB # 2119P.

Zoning Board of Adjustment (11/20/19))

- **Abutters' Hearing – Cindy Clark for Starbright Farm LLC**: Granted requests for:
  1. A Special Exception of Article 5 Table 1 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow an accessory apartment in the “RS” zone. ZBA # 2219Z.
  2. A Variance of Article 8.F.1 of the Zoning Ordinance to increase the square footage of an accessory apartment to 950 square feet where 750 square feet is allowed. ZBA # 2319Z.

Property is located at 515 Union Road, in an (RS) Zone, Tax Lot 222-072-000-000.

Capital Improvements Program

After a noticed public hearing, the Planning Board adopted the annual update of the Capital Improvements Program. Information on the current plan and past budget can be viewed at [www.belmontnh.org/datacip.asp](http://www.belmontnh.org/datacip.asp).

For additional Land Use Information:

Visit [www.belmontnh.org](http://www.belmontnh.org)
Contact LandUse@BelmontNH.org Call 267-8300 x 119
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**December 2019**

**Trustees Meeting**
Monday December 9 4:30pm

**NonFiction Book Group**
Thursday December 12 1pm
*Four Seasons in Rome* by Anthony Doerr

**Middle School Madness**
Monday December 16 3pm
Hot Chocolate Gift Jars. Sign up required.

**Senior Center Book Group**
Tuesday December 17 10:30am
*Once Upon a River* by Diane Setterfield

**Fiction Book Group**
Friday December 20 10:30am
*Last Christmas in Paris* by Hazel Gaynor

**Changes in Library Hours**
December 24 10am-2pm
December 25 CLOSED
December 26 1pm-5pm

**Family Storytime**
Wednesdays 10:30 am December 4,11,18
Our Furry Friends

Pets of Belmont

Rockwall Acres Farm on South Road

**Baby Luigi** with his mom **Ginger**! Born this summer on Rockwall Acres Farm on South Road! Born to a spoiled herd of registered dexter cows.

**Moxie** is the social butterfly of South road! With his pasture near the road he gets a lot of selfies! Moxie is always up for a visitor and loves farm life!

**Diamond** enjoys her days as a spoiled house cat! Being born a foo foo cat and living on a farm is hard work! She is a Himalayan which means trips to groomers often.

- Submitted by Alicia Segalini of South Road
This is **Phoenix**.....he is a year old. He was left in the woods when he was a few weeks old and with the help of some friends, we were able to catch him. He was very grateful to find a forever home with us and his new sister Luna. He loves to snuggle, especially with my daughter.

Editors Note: It is not clear which arrived first the cat or the rug—but they sure are a perfect match!

- submitted by Jena Valliere

Would you like to see your pet here? Just send a picture to Kathy at townhall@belmontnh.org along with their name and yours, as well as a brief description of your pet and their favorite pastime. They will be posted in the order received.
*All meetings held in CMH (Corner Meeting House) unless otherwise noted. ↑ = upstairs  ↓ = downstairs

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**BOS** Board of Selectmen  **Heritage** Heritage Commission

**CC** Conservation Committee  **ARC** Application Review Committee

**PB** Planning Board  **ZBA** Zoning Board of Adjustment

**SOGS** Save Our Gale School  **FSC** Facilities Strategy Committee