Town Administrator’s Monthly Report

Draft budgets are due to the Board of Selectmen for consideration by September 18th, at which point the Selectmen will be scheduling workshops with Department Heads to discuss their proposals, consider changes and prepare the budget for distribution to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee will begin their work in late October, a schedule of their meetings will be posted on the Town’s Website at www.belmontnh.org.

We anticipate that this year’s Town tax rate will see a slight decrease (approximately .08 cents) due to new construction which has added value to our overall total assessment and a small increase in offsetting revenues. Tax bills will most likely be mailed in early October and due December 1st.

Winnisquam Scenic Trail

The Board of Selectmen is very pleased to announce that bids were received relative to the construction of the first Phase of the Winnisquam Scenic Trail. DOT is in the process of reviewing, dotting their “I’s” and crossing their “t’s” and we hope the project will be awarded in mid-September. The apparent low bidder on the project was Nelson Communications Services (NCS).

In addition the Water Department and my office are working closely with HydroSource Associates of Ashland, NH, on possible well site locations to insure the future quality of our water supply. Please look for further updates on these exciting projects as we move through the fall.

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

We would like to remind all Dog Owners of the importance of picking up your dog’s waste from properly not your own. The town installed at two 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.

Town Staff is also working with Underwood Engineering on improvements to Wareing Road. In addition the Water Department and my office are working closely with HydroSource Associates of Ashland, NH, on possible well site locations to insure the future quality of our water supply. Please look for further updates on these exciting projects as we move through the fall.

The Belmont Board of Selectmen are on Facebook, look for us at Belmont NH Selectmen; we will be posting information about our upcoming meetings, minutes of meetings, general notices about happenings in Town and we are looking for “friends”.

Your feedback is always welcome and if my office can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at townadministrator@belmontnh.org.
DON’T KISS YOUR ASH GOODBYE YET

We all know ash makes great firewood, and in light of the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continuing to increase its range here in New Hampshire, we may have a lot more sooner than we would like. Recently, Belknap County was added to the quarantine list since the adult insect was found in both in Belmont and Gilmanton EAB monitoring traps. If you own an ash tree in the quarantine area and this hasn’t raised any red flags for you yet, it should.

In Concord where EAB was first discovered in 2013, it’s already killing trees along the streets and in people’s yards. This will continue as the population of EAB steadily grows and the destructive larvae decimate the conductive tissue in the trees. This will eventually happen as the insect population builds seeking out new host trees. All ash, white, green and black are susceptible to the insect. We have learned from other infested states that once an area has EAB, it takes about seven years for nearly all ash to die without some sort of intervention. In Detroit Michigan, where the insect was first discovered in 2002 they have seen 99% mortality.

Dead ash trees will cost homeowners, businesses, and communities thousands of dollars in tree removals. So what is one to do? Throw up their hands and wait for the inevitable? No, there are options and opportunities to plan ahead as well as intervention to treat highly valued landscape ash for the insect before it’s too late. Planning ahead could mean planting another species near your ash tree to eventually take its place, or contacting a reputable tree care company to assess the tree. They will be able to provide an estimate of cost to treat the tree with a pesticide, or possibly remove it. Treated ash trees can theoretically last as long as the treatment continues, but may succumb at some point. The decision to treat or not to treat can be used to extend the survival of the tree in order to postpone the inevitable removal. A high value landscape ash tree may be well worth the effort to protect it.

Communities and property managers should start assessing their landscape trees now. The loss will make a sudden impact in many communities leaving everyone pointing fingers and looking for money to address the problem. Taking the time to explore your options early will allow you to have some control over the longevity of your tree as well as your tree removal budget. Purdue University has an online cost calculator that can be found at this site www.extension.entm.purdue.edu/treecomputer/ which estimates the cost of removal based on the size of the tree. Be proactive, it is not too early to start evaluating your options and planning ahead. For further information and resources please visit www.nhbugs.org

Scott K Rolfe – Member, Belmont Conservation Commission
Community Forester
NH Division of Forests and Lands
Planning and Community Forestry Bureau
Planning Board

- **Mountain Lake Village, Inc.**: Subdivision approval for 18-lot open space single family subdivision, Mile Hill Road.

- **Pensco Holdings LLC**: Site Plan approval extension 4,000sf commercial building up to 4 units for office and retail, 8 Church Street.

- **Belmont-Penguin Real Estate Holdings LLC**: Site Plan approval for renovations including paving, fuel pumps, retaining wall and removal of propane fueling tank, 916 Laconia Road.

- **Pauline, John A. & Glen Eastman**: Discussion in conceptual form only regarding possible two-lot subdivision, 114 Ladd Hill Road.

Zoning Board

- **David Dachowski**: Approved garage closer to front and side property lines than allowed, 24 Sunset Drive.

- **Paula & Christine Clearwater**: Approved breezeway and garage closer front property line than allowed, 47 Dock Road.

- **Belmont Penguin Real Estate Holding, LLC**: Approved fuel and drive-thru canopies closer to front property line than allowed, 916 Laconia Road.

Application Review Committee

- **Terra Firma Real Estate c/o Jemco Builder**: Review of Subdivision 1-year extension for 36-lot open space single family subdivision, Upper Parish Settlement Road

- **Gistis Belmont Realty, LLC**: Review of Subdivision 1-year extension for 43-lot open space single family subdivision, Province Road

- **Dennis Greenwood**: Review of Site Plan for motor vehicle sales & repair shop, 171 Laconia Road

- **Winnisquam Marine, Inc.**: Review of Site Plan for vehicle & boat parking, boat repairs & maintenance, and storage, 17 Sunset Drive

- **Winnisquam Marine, Inc.**: Review of Site Plan Review for boat & trailer storage lot, Paquette Drive

- **Parent Sand and Gravel, LLC**: Review of Subdivision to subdivide one lot into two lots, Wareing Road

- **Parent Sand and Gravel, LLC**: Review of Earth Excavation Plan to relocate access/create access and scale-house to service excavation, Waring & Shaker Roads

Other Land Use News

As can be seen from the above the number of project applications for the Boards continues to grow through this construction season. In addition, building permit submissions are currently extremely high. Our office received 16 new building permit applications in just the last 3 days. We appreciate everyone’s patience as we move through this time of high service demand!

Visit [www.belmontnh.org/agendasminutes.asp](http://www.belmontnh.org/agendasminutes.asp) to view agendas and minutes for all meetings. Please do not hesitate to contact the Land Use Office with any questions.
July’s EMS and fire training topic was Auto Extrication. The class was held at Belmont Auto Salvage on Hurricane Road. Owner, David Rogers, was kind enough to set up several scenarios for our crews to work on. This type of public-private partnership is greatly appreciated, and helps tremendously with preparing our personnel for the difficult task they face on a daily basis. Personnel were able to work on popping doors, dash rolls, roof removal, and extricating victims from unique situations. Thank you to Lt. Murphy for coordinating the drill.

### 2015 Incidents by Time of Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLS Alpha or Bravo</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS Charlie</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS Delta</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS Echo</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVA Alpha or Bravo</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVA Delta</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVA With Extrication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Response</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials Response</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual Aid Response</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Medical Incident Found/No Patient Contact</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Call</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm Response</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>743</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On a regular basis during our careers, we are faced with ethical tests. These may come in small situations, like covering something for a friend, or big issues, like financial and moral decisions. Ethics continues to be a challenge for all of us, regardless of our beliefs and foundations. The challenge is often how to look at the issue in light of how others may see it as much as how we view the issue itself.

In a recent book called “Ethics 4 Everyone” by Eric Harvey and Scott Airitam, the authors pose eight hard questions that are worth considering whenever you are faced with an ethical challenge in your life. How could you use the following questions to guide you when you face your next ethical challenge?

1. **Is it legal?** This one seems simple, but is it? In today’s society, laws and legal rulings change daily. Have you checked with a legal expert first, such as your city or county attorney?

2. **Does it comply with our rules and regulations?** Again, this issue seems so simple, but we have to be concerned with fire department, city and often state rules. Check into this next!

3. **Is it in sync with our organizational guidelines?** This should be easy! Maybe! Look at your mission and value statements. You should have them already in place.

4. **Will I be comfortable and guilt-free if I do it?** This is a deep question that must reflect your values and personal beliefs. It should be a very simple question to answer.

5. **Does it match our organization’s stated commitments and values?** Again, have you matched your question to your organization’s values and mission? They should already be hanging on your wall. If not, you need to address this in your organization.

6. **Would I do it to my family and friends?** Another important question! Would you hurt your loved ones with such an action?

7. **Would it be perfectly okay if someone did this to me?** Another way to ask this question: What would you feel like if the same thing happened to you? Would you feel bad?

8. **Would the most ethical person I know do it?** A final test for everyone. Take someone you respect and admire. Would he or she do this? If so, you can move forward. If not, maybe you could discuss it with that person.

Simply stated, ethics affects us all. It is not a decision you can make in a second, and often you must take the time to consider these questions and others before making your final decision.


**BELMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT CODE OF ETHICS**

- That my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives, property and the environment; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.
- To keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; to maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule.
- To develop self-restraint, and to be constantly mindful of the welfare of others.
- To be honest in thought and deed in both my personal and professional life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of Belmont Fire Department.
- That whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me in my official capacity will be kept ever a secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

- That I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions.
- That I will perform my duties without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.
- That I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it, as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the fire service.
- That I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession.
September 2015

Belmont Public Library
146 Main Street @belmontpl FB: BelmontPL
Belmontpubliclibrary.org T: 267-8331 F: 267-5924

Friends Interest Meetings
Love your local library? Eager to make a small difference in your community? Like getting in on the ground floor? We invite you to two discussions aimed at starting a Friends of the Library group for the Belmont Public Library. No obligation, no pressure—but there will be snacks!
Saturday, September 19 at 1pm
Monday September 21 at 6:30pm

Library Genealogy Workshop
Tuesday, September 29 5:30pm
Want to know more about your ancestors? Library staff will walk you through a hands-on tutorial of the valuable Ancestry Library Edition, available in the building. We also plan to demonstrate some valuable Internet resources and local information for finding more about your heritage. Register soon, as space is limited for this session.

Ozobots
Monday, September 14 4pm for kids
Tuesday, September 15 4pm for teens
Ozobots are fun little robots you can program to race on a track from your own imagination. The library is borrowing these gadgets for only a short time, so this is your chance! Register soon, as space is limited for these special events.

Upcoming Events
September 14
Ozobots for Kids
September 15
Ozobots for Teens
September 19
Friends Interest Meeting
September 21
Friends Interest Meeting
September 22
Book Group
September 29
Library Genealogy Workshop

Monthly Events
LEGO Club
Saturday 9/5 10am-12pm
Preschool Storytime
Wednesdays 10:30am
Adult Craft Nights
Thursdays 5:30pm
Closed Monday September 7 for the Labor Day holiday
Library Happenings

National Library Card Sign-Up Month

Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school. September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when the Belmont Public Library joins with the American Library Association and public libraries nationwide to make sure that every student has the most import school supply of all – a free library card.

Resources at the Belmont Public Library are available to anyone who has a library card. Students can turn to the library for materials, programs and knowledgeable library staff that support academic achievement.

Today’s libraries aren’t only a place of quiet study, but also creative and engaging community centers. Our library offers access to a variety of print and digital resources that can be accessed in person or online. There’s really something for everyone and it’s all free with a library card.

1000 Books before Kindergarten

The single most important thing you can do to prepare your children to read is to read to them every day. Research proves that children need to hear 1000 books before they begin to learn to read independently. Reading to children will increase their vocabulary and their listening and narrative skills. Reading with children will also help to instill in them self-awareness, confidence and an understanding of their place in the world.

HOW CAN WE READ 1000 BOOKS? It’s easy!
One book a day for three years = 1000
Three books a day for one year = 1000
Ten books a week for two years = 1000

WHAT COUNTS? Everything! Every book you read counts every time you read it! Books your child hears in Storytime count. Books that others read to your child count. It all counts!

WHERE CAN I SIGN UP? We will give you sheets to help you keep count of the first 100 books. When you finish reading 100 books, come back to the library for another set of sheets and a prize. We will celebrate all who finish reading 1000 books with a special event.

WHEN: Today! Register anytime when your child is between birth and five years old.
NEW ITEMS

AUDIO  Anna Karenina Leo Tolstoy

J FICTION
Dragons Beware! Jorge Aguirre
The Surprise Attack of Jabiba the Puppet
Tom Angleberger
Heartbreaker (Babymouse, #5) Jennifer L. Holm
Beach Babe (Babymouse, #3) Jennifer L. Holm
Rock Star (Babymouse, #4) Jennifer L. Holm
Fuzzy Mud Louis Sachar
The Mysterious Benedict Society and the
Perilous Journey Trenton Lee Stewart
Hunted (Spirit Animals, #2) Maggie Stiefvater
Drama Raina Telgemeier

FICTION
Alert (Michael Bennett, #8) James Patterson
The Marriage of Opposites Alice Hoffman
Dragonbane (Helchaser, #7; Dark Hunter #24)
Sherilyn Kenyon
The State We're In: Maine Stories Ann Beattie
The Martian Andy Weir
The Lure of the Moonflower (Pink Carnation #12)
Lauren Willig
Devil's Bridge (Alexandra Cooper, #17) Linda Fairstein
Brown-Eyed Girl (Travis Family, #4) Lisa Kleypas
Silver Linings (Rose Harbor #4) Debbie Macomber
Who Do You Love Jennifer Weiner
Fiction Sandra Brown
We Never Asked for Wings Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good (Mitford
Years, #10) LP Jan Karon

NON FICTION
Good and Cheap: Eat Well on $4/Day Leanne
Brown
Living with Rheumatoid Arthritis Tammi L.
Shiotzhauser
Plastic Canvas Stitch Dictionary

What to Expect When You're Expecting Heidi
Murkoff
What to Expect the First Year Heidi Murkoff
Knitting to Go Deck: 25 Chic and Easy Patterns
Kris Percival
1-2-3 Magic: Effective Discipline for Children 2-12
Thomas W. Phelan
Behind the Scenes at Downton Abbey Emma
Rowley

PICTURE BOOKS
Superman: The Story of the Man of Steel Ralph
Cosentino
Wonder Woman: The Story of the Amazon
Princess Ralph Cosentino
Batman: The Story of the Dark Knight Ralph
Cosentino
The Day the Crayons Came Home Drew Daywalt
Wait Antoinette Portis
The Invincible Iron Man: An Origin Story Rich
Thomas
The Incredible Hulk: An Origin Story Rich Thomas
The Amazing Spider-Man: An Origin Story Rich
Thomas

TEEN
Goodbye Stranger Rebecca Stead
Paper Towns John Green
Scarlet (The Lunar Chronicles, #2) Marissa Meyer

DVD
Back to the future
Before I go to sleep
Far from the madding crowd
Grantchester
Insurgent
Last tango in Halifax season 3
Madame Bovary
Daniel Tiger's neighborhood: Life's little lessons
Descendants
Home
Planet 51
Fall is in the air and so are a whole lot of exciting changes to our Town Clerk’s office!

You asked and we listened.... We are currently in the process of trying to make it possible for our office to accept credit and debit cards!! That’s right folks... you heard me correctly... It will be a process as it involves other departments helping us set things up to be able to accept and process them, but hopefully by the end of this year we will be in business! Please remember, at this time we still accept check or cash only.

On top of that great news... all three of us here in the Town Clerk’s office just received certification to become boat agents. So that means that as soon as we can go “live” with the state we will be able to process your new, transfer, and renewal boat registrations.

Since we are back on track with our quarterly billing cycles, you can also expect to see the third issue water/sewer bills in your mailbox this month. The new water meters should also provide the water department with more accurate readings which may cause a fluctuation in your bill. Please keep in mind, the second issue water/sewer bill reflected the ‘previous balance’ of the first issue bill. If you paid the first issue on time, and then paid the full amount shown on the second issue bill (resulting in an overpayment) you will have a credit on your water/sewer account. While you will still receive a bill in the mail, it may reflect a negative balance. Please call our office with any questions, (603) 267-8300 Ext 2. As always, you may mail in your payment, stop by the office to pay, or go on our town website, www.belmontnh.org, and pay your bill online.

Our new animal control officer, Michelle King, is out and about delivering civil forfeitures to residents who overlooked licensing their dogs. If it slipped your mind, please hurry down to our office with your dog’s updated rabies certificate and take care of it. There will be a $25 civil forfeiture fee assessed per dog. We are instituting an email reminder list next spring to remind our residents that dog renewals are due. If you would like to be added to the list, please email tctcclerk2@belmontnh.org with your email address and an updated phone number. Please reference your name and your pooch’s name.

Have a fantastic September!!
The Good Old Days
Saturday, August 1, was a beautiful summer day to enjoy delicious food, laughter and plenty of entertainment for our Old Home Day celebration! Thank you to the First Baptist Church for holding their Pancake Breakfast under our new pavilion. It was a wonderful way to start the day. St. Joseph Church anchored our activities on the other end of Main St. and offered people a chance to escape the sun. The day was filled with children’s games, Fun Run, vendors for shopping, concessions, historic displays, three oldies bands, chicken BBQ, rock climbing wall, obstacle course, and spectacular fireworks! The crowd on Bryant Field at dusk was awesome, and the people just kept coming! Please feel free to provide feedback to Gretta Olson-Wilder at 603-998-3525 to make next year’s celebration even better!

Road, Relay and Fun Competition Day
We were so fortunate to have two gorgeous Saturdays in a row for Old Home Day and our Road, Relay and Fun Competition Day. Over 70 runners participated in the Belmont 10-Mile Road Race and were delighted with the cooler 8 am start time. Proceeds from Vito’s 5k allowed us to donate to the care and maintenance of the police K-9 unit, while offering a nice little loop for runners and walkers. Yes, we did have people throwing real, dried cow pies in the parking lot after the teams all came in from the Cow Pie (10 Mile) Relay Race. It was very interesting! Thanks to assistance by the Lakes Region Community Emergency Response Team, Fire Department and Police Department, the

3rd Farmer’s Market this Sunday, August 30
9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Join us at the Tioga Pavilion this Sunday, August 30, for another wonderful Farmer’s Market in Belmont! Bring the kids and let them hand-select their veggies. Listen to the live music or watch the pottery demonstration. Come hang out with us! Our last market day of the summer will be Sunday, September 20. Mark your calendar!

Dancing The Night Away
Plans are underway for an evening of live music and revelry in early October. Let’s not rush the summer away just yet though! Stay tuned for more information later in September.

Gretta Olson-Wilder, Special Events Coordinator, email at events@belmontnh.org
A Memorable Concert in Belmont Village

It took more than a ferocious thunderstorm – with lightning that felled a utility pole, and a widespread loss of power – to stop the Newmont Military Band from playing last month. It took neighborhood heroes, audience participation and exceptional musicians, for the show to go on at the Corner Meeting House, instead of the Bandstand.

Lifelong Village resident and Heritage Commission member Alyce Jewell, who helped plan the concert, said “it was a proud night for Belmont.”

When volunteer organizers learned the outage’s extent from the Fire Department, venetian blinds were raised, windows opened and collective brainstorming moved to high gear. Jeff McKillip ventured onto Fuller Street and didn’t need to go far, before meeting Bob Ferguson – getting ready to enjoy the concert with wife Sue, from the vantage point of their restored barn. A supervisor for BPS during the week, Bob “had the care and goods” according to Jeff. The Fergusons generously loaned a supply of heavy-duty flashlights, solar and other lanterns, and even a miner’s headlight, insuring that the performance continued. Vicki Donovan checked in with the Police Department, and several attendees fetched flashlights from nearby vehicles or homes.

Music director Jim Cheseborough, with Newmont founder Larry Jones from Windsor, Vermont both monitored growing brightness to make sure the 22 band members could see the music to perform. Even cell phone lighting apps of audience members helped provide the needed illumination. A rousing performance of “The Thunderer” by American composer and conductor John Philip Sousa was dedicated to Heritage Commission members by the band, and a standing ovation from the capacity indoor crowd, brought an extra rendition of thanks via the well-known “Stars and Stripes Forever” march, also by Mr. Sousa.

Heritage Series program at the Historic Village Bandstand

Sunday, September 13th at 1:00 p.m.
Celebrate National Grandparents Day with Don Watson and Jackie Lee

Please bring your lawn chair or blanket.
Concerts are rain or shine. (Indoor location is Corner Meeting House, Fuller and Sargent Streets.)

Sponsored by the Belmont Heritage Commission, John M. Sargent Fund & Friends of the Bandstand

Learn more:
www.historicbelmontbandstand.org

Check www.irpa.org for cablecast schedule of Newmont and all of this season’s Bandstand Heritage Series concerts on MetroCast channel 25.

Photos and report: Linda Frawley, chairman
Belmont Parks & Recreation

Boston Theatre & Shopping Trip
Saturday—December 5, 2015

Elf the Musical
$118 Orchestra
$96 Orchestra Rear
$78 Balcony

Rudolph the Musical
$99 Orchestra
$90 Mezzanine
$76 Balcony

Shopping & Sightseeing
On Your Own
$35.00

Our trip to Boston gives you the choice of two fabulous holiday shows or to spend the day shopping and sightseeing on your own. Elf The Musical is the hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan child who mistakenly crawls into Santa’s bag of gifts and is transported back to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy’s enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa’s permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas. This modern day Christmas classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner ELF. The beloved TV classic Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer soars off the screen and onto the stage this holiday season. Come see all of your favorite characters from the tv show including Santa and Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, the Abominable Snow Monster, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius and of course, Rudolph, as they come to life in this all new musical. It’s an adventure that teaches us that what makes you different can be what makes you special. Don’t miss this wonderful new holiday tradition that speaks to the misfit in all of us. If you prefer you can spend the day sightseeing or visiting the aquarium or a museum on your own. We will travel to Boston via a luxury motor coach with restroom facilities. This is an active trip and does require walking from a central drop off points to the various venues.

We depart the Belmont Park and Ride on route 106 at 8:15AM, our first stop will be the Prudential Center Shops, with time for shopping or lunch on your own. Our next stop is Park Street Station for shopping at Downtown Crossing or lunch on your own. All ticket holders will be transported to the theatre approximately 30 minutes prior to the show, departing 15 minutes after the show ends. The last stop of the day will be Faneuil Hall Marketplace for shopping and dinner on your own. You will be within walking distance of all the fabulous North End Restaurants. We recommend you make dinner reservations. Rudolph ticket holders will arrive at Faneuil Hall around 3:00PM, Elf ticket holders will arrive around 4:45PM, we will depart for home at 6:45PM arriving at 8:15PM. Space is limited, full payment and a registration form are required at the time of booking. No refund for cancelled reservations unless your seats can be resold.

Belmont Parks & Recreation
(603) 267-1865
www.belmontnh.org
Belmont Parks & Recreation

Preschool Playgroup
September 23-October 28, 2015
Wednesday or Thursday
10:00AM—11:00AM
Parks & Rec Function Room
Residents—FREE
Non Residents—$2 per day

Preschool children ages 2-5 years old will enjoy a fun filled hour playing games and interacting with other children. Choose between the Wednesday or Thursday program. Parents are encouraged to join in the fun. Activities will be organized by our instructor Nicole Sturgeon who has an associates degree in early childhood education. Children should bring a parent or guardian, sneakers and something to drink. This program is free to residents of Belmont with proof of residency required. Non residents can participate as space allows. The class will be held at the Belmont Parks and Recreation Function Room, 2nd floor of the Belmont Mill. *Our program is canceled if there is a school delayed entry or Belmont schools are closed for the day.*

Advanced registration is required and space is limited with preference given to Belmont residents.

Belmont Parks & Recreation
PO Box 310
Belmont, NH 03220
(603) 267-1865
www.belmontnh.org
STONE WALLS

In 1822, at a time when settlers were still clearing new land in New Hampshire, a writer for the journal of the State Board of Agriculture admonished farmers to build for the ages, replacing the temporary wooden fences they had thrown up while cutting trees.

“Almost all farms have stone enough to make a wall for every necessary division and enclosure... Labor used in this way answers a double purpose: it secures the fields from the ravages of stock, and improves them by removing rocks which are not only useless, but inconvenient and injurious in their natural situation. A farmer ought to consider it his proper business, as he has means and opportunity, to secure his lands by stone walls.”

New Hampshire farmers heeded these words, as did all others in the rock-strewn post-glacial Northeast. By one estimate made in 1871, when most wall building had ceased and marginal farms were beginning to be abandoned, there were 252,539 miles of stone wall in New England and New York.

As the inhabitants of less prosperous farms abandoned their tillage to pasture and their pastures to woods, the stone wall began to be seen as a symbol of the virtues of New England’s settlers and of the irrevocable end of the farming way of life. Lost in deep second-growth forest or cutting a line across a barren mountaintop, the stone wall became an icon of times past, of labor lost.

Writing in 1938, Tamworth author Marjorie Jane Harkness observed that “we cannot put up our stone walls at auction, and strap them on the car to take down country. But that is all that prevents their being known as antiques of the first interest, antiques of real estate – the pioneer settler’s signature on the land, his indelible mark.”

Time has proven Mrs. Harkness wrong. We can put our walls up for auction, or at least up for sale. The stone wall is not an indelible mark in the New Hampshire landscape. Every few weeks, the Division of Historical Resources receives an anguish call from someone who sees a neighbor’s ancient wall being loaded into trucks and taken figuratively “down country” for use as landscaping stone. Other calls come from people who see a wall being bulldozed into a gulley in order to smooth a site for a new house, or being undermined or buried by a town road agent.

New Hampshire law doesn’t prevent the sale and removal of walls that lie on private property. While it has long been illegal to remove a wall that serves as a
boundary between two properties without the consent of both owners, a wall that lies within a single land parcel is the property of the owner of the land. However, grievous the removal of a privately-owned wall may be to neighbors who have grown accustomed to its presence, a stone wall on private land may be sold in the same manner as timber or gravel might be sold from that land.

In 1990, the state afforded a measure of protection for walls that border state highways. Reacting to the highly-publicized destruction of a beautiful wall in Webster during highway widening, then-governor Judd Gregg asked the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to institute a stone wall protection policy.

Developed in consultation with the Division of Historical Resources and the Federal Highway Administration, this policy remains in effect. A committee evaluates the walls along each state-funded highway project, assessing the character of the wall, the highway, the adjacent buildings and land uses, and the interest of owners or local citizens in preserving the walls. Evaluation includes both aesthetic and technical criteria, and may result in the protection of all walls in a project, the selective preservation of the best examples, or the sacrifice of insignificant walls. Preserved walls are rebuilt on the new right-of-way line as part of the project.

A few communities have enacted ordinances that, in a similar manner, protect walls bordering town-owned roads.

The outright theft of stone walls has become epidemic in New Hampshire and other New England states as the value of weathered stone for landscaping has increased dramatically. On July 31, 2009, Governor John Lynch signed a law that greatly strengthened the penalty for stealing stone walls.

The 2009 statute was an amendment of legislation that was passed in 1791. The law of 1791 set a penalty for stealing valuable resources from private property at “treble damages.” Although that language had been maintained in subsequent statutes, the penalty was capped at $15 at some point. The amended law removes the cap, specifically protects “stone from a stone wall,” and includes the cost of rebuilding, attorney’s fees, and court costs among the “treble damages” that must be paid to the injured party.

New Hampshire people are now fully aware of the value and the vulnerability of the stone wall. As if in response to this awareness, a new generation of stone wall builders has appeared among us. We are probably seeing more stone wall building and rebuilding in New Hampshire than at any time since the nineteenth century.

In 1999, DHR’s colleague agency, the New Hampshire Council on the Arts, chose stone wall builders Kevin Fife of Northfield and Doug Faxon of Walpole to exemplify New Hampshire’s renaissance in wall building at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. In the same year, the Concord Monitor chose legislator and wall builder Derek Owen of Hopkinton as one of the “One Hundred Who Shaped the Century” in New Hampshire. Owen traveled to Washington to explain Fife’s and Faxon’s wall building for the thousands who attended the festival.

Literature on stone wall building received its first substantial American contributions with the publication of Curtis Fields’ The Forgotten Art of Building a Stone Wall in 1971, John Vivian’s Building Stone Walls in 1976, and Susan Allport’s Sermons in Stone: The Stone Walls of New England and New York in 1990. The fall of 2001 saw the publication of The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls. The book was written by New Hampshire’s Kevin Gardner, a nephew of Derek Owen, a member of an extended family of wall builders, and a skillful writer. Since then, others have contributed countless newspaper and magazine articles.

Reacting to New Englanders’ strong interest in stone walls, geology professor Robert Thorson of the University of Connecticut has published a history of stone walls, Stone by Stone (2002), and a field guide, Exploring Stone Walls (2005). He has established the “Stone Wall Initiative,” a web-based source that promotes the appreciation, investigation, and conservation of stone walls in New England. It can be explored at: http://www.stonewall.uconn.edu/

James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources ★ Updated excerpt from the Fall 2001 Old Stone Wall newsletter
Belmont Historical Society Program,  
“Discovering New England Stone Walls”

On Tuesday, September 15th, at 7 PM, the Belmont Historical Society, with funding from the NH Humanities Council, will host a presentation by Kevin Gardner, entitled “Discovering New England Stone Walls.” For nearly forty years, Kevin, who lives in Hopkinton, NH, has been a stone wall builder in a family business widely known for traditional New England stonework. Kevin’s informal talk covers a few of the main topics in his book about New England stone walls, The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls (Countryman Press). He touches on history, technique, stylistic development, and aesthetics. He explains how and why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways in which they and other dry stone structures were built, how their styles emerged and changed over time, as well as their significance to the famous New England landscape. Other topics may include: a discussion of restoration tips and techniques, and information about design, materials, preservation, and analysis. There will also be a Q&A period during which listeners are encouraged to bring up specific problems or projects on their own properties.

Along the way, Kevin occupies himself building a miniature wall or walls on a tabletop, using tiny stones from a five-gallon bucket. He often brings along his collection of books about stonework.

The presentation will be held at 7 PM the Corner Meeting House in Belmont, NH, and is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. The meeting house is located at the intersection of Fuller and Sargent Streets in the village. Parking is available behind the meeting house or in the gravel lot approximately one-half block south of the meeting house on Sargent St.

Since the publication of The Granite Kiss, Kevin has presented his program at dozens of historical societies, bookstores, and town libraries all over New England, including Canterbury Shaker Village, the NH Historical Society, Castle-in-the-Clouds, Old Sturbridge Village, Boston’s Arnold Arboretum, and many, many more.

For more information on the Belmont program, or directions, contact Christine Fogg, program coordinator, at 524-8268.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>BOS Mtg  5p @CMH</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Conservation Comm 6:30p @CMH Story Time 10:30am @Library</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Adult Craft Night 5:30pm @Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lego Club 10A @Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Town Hall Closed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Story Time 10:30am @Library</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Grandparents Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Heritage Comm 1pm @Bandstand</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ozobots 4P @Library-kids</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Historical Society Program 6pm @CMH Ozobots 4P @Library-teens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Story Time 10:30am @Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Farmers Market 9:30-12:30 @Pavilion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>BOS Mtg  5p @CMH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Book Group @Library 6P Friends Interest Mtg 6p @Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Fall Begins Zoning Board 7p @CMH Story Time 10:30a @Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Planning Board 7p @CMH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Genealogy Workshop 5:30p @Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Story Time 10:30am @Library</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>