



# Belgrade Bulletin

## March 2023

### **BELGRADE TOWN OFFICE**

990 Augusta Road  
Belgrade, ME 04917  
207-495-2258

**townofbelgrade.com**

**Facebook:** @BelgradeMaine

### **TOWN OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Wednesday, Friday  
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

### **BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS**

Melanie Jewell, chair (2025)  
Barbara Allen, vice chair (2024)  
Carol Johnson (2024)  
Daniel Newman (2023)

### **STAFF**

#### **Town Manager**

Lorna Dee Nichols

#### **Town Clerk**

Mary Vogel

#### **Treasurer, Tax Collector**

Nicholas Poole

#### **Deputy Clerk, Registrar**

Charlene Houle

#### **Deputy Clerk, Deputy Registrar**

Deb Nichols

**Town services,  
contact information**

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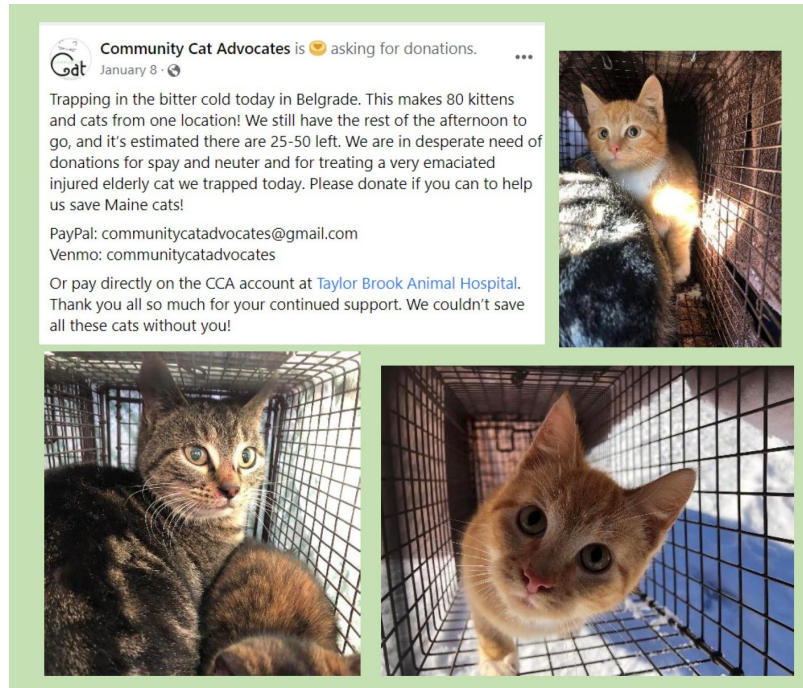
### **Select Board Highlights November-February**

- I'm not counting on Mother Nature being kind to us for the remainder of the winter, but I have been delighted by how nice she's been so far! There have been minimal storms that caused a shutdown of town services, and, as of this writing, only one that indicated a delay in opening times would be prudent. Here's to hoping that the remainder of winter will be as kind weather-wise.
- Here is a synopsis of what your elected officials have been up to over the past few months:
- The Spirit of America Foundation Award is presented to honor local individuals, organizations or projects in appreciation of exemplary community service. Nominations are being accepted through March 1, and the 2022 awards will be presented at town meeting, Saturday, March 18. An electronic nomination form can be completed on the town website, and paper copies to submit nominations are available at the town office. Please let us know who you think deserves to be honored.
- The Board finalized a cooperative agreement between the town and MDOT regarding groundwater chlorine impacts and the installation, maintenance and operation of a community water system. MDOT has reached out to affected parties to ascertain their commitment to join the public utility, and a majority has indicated participation. The next step for the town is to appoint a board of trustees, which the board began considering trustees at the Feb. 21 meeting.
- 8 Dalton has a new roof! The roof on the property has been in dire need of replacement for many years and, when the previous tenants vacated the property, it seemed like the best time to get the work done. Along with the new roof, several updates to the interior walls and fixtures were completed. Necessary heating and rodent infestation problems were also addressed and the board anticipates that it is ready for renting again as soon as a suitable tenant is found.
- A special requests presentation (items petitioned to be part of the town warrant) was held on Dec. 6. 7 Lakes Alliance, Spectrum Generations, Sexual Assault and Crisis Center and Hospice Volunteers were all present to answer questions. A public hearing on the same articles was held Feb. 7.

**Continued, Page 2**

## Select Board Highlights, from Page 1

- Several property tax abatements and supplemental taxes were approved, with assessor recommendations.
- The board approved an extension of the sand/salt agreement with David Stevens through June.
- Andrew Dallas was appointed to a three-year term as health officer on Nov. 15, 2022. The board considered and approved of appointments to the Dams Committee and Budget Committee. Many boards and committees have openings ~ won't you please consider submitting an application so that you can be "in the know" and "part of the process"?
- The Fire and Rescue Department requested that the town participate in a "buyback" of years of service under the Maine State Retirement Plan, using remaining funds in their budget at the end of 2022. Employees would use 457 Deferred Comp account funds over to MSR toward their portion. The town would pay an estimated \$47,560 from the 2022 Fire and Rescue budget for its portion. This request was approved with a split of 40/60 for employee 1 and a 50/50 split for employee 2. Discussion ensued regarding offering the MSRP to all employees. The board requested that a representative from MSRP make a presentation for town employees at a future date to explore this option.
- Cats, cats and more cats! Belgrade has a feral cat problem and it's a doozy! Two locations have been identified as significant and to date nearly 90 feral cats have been humanely trapped and transported for vaccinations, spaying and re-homing/adoption. A huge thank-you to Community Cat Advocates, of Buckfield, and our animal control officer, Jeff Worthing, for their extensive assistance with this issue.



**A Facebook post from Community Cat Advocates, in Buckfield, which is helping the town remove feral cats. Nearly 90 cats had been removed by the end of January. If there are feral cats in your neighborhood, call the animal control officer at the town office. DO NOT put out poison. If you have outdoor cats, be sure to get them neutered and spayed!**

The board Dec. 20 approved establishment of an ad-hoc committee to explore the possibility of a Public Works Department. There is an accompanying article on Page 3 with more information.

- Delta Ambulance Services have historically been provided at no cost to the town. This is no longer the case, as Executive Director Tim Beals explained to the board in November. He handed out a presentation and went over the history and services of Delta, as well as response and call data for the town. The ambulance service is requesting money from every community it serves in an effort to remain sustainable. Delta is requesting \$48,630 from the town for the upcoming fiscal year for services provided; this is an annual fee that may increase. The board asked if a multi-year contract was a possibility, or a discount given if the annual fee was paid up front instead of quarterly as suggested. This was an option not

previously explored by the board of executives for Delta, but Beals indicated he would take that request back to the board for their consideration.

- The Board and the Budget Committee met with department heads multiple times from December through January to review the budget requests, and to iron out the details of the warrant which taxpayers will be asked to consider at the annual town meeting. As always, "needs versus wants" was an integral part of the discussions. Being mindful of the impact that increases in the budget have on our citizens, several concessions were made by the various departments to hold off on projects, personnel or purchases that were not an immediate need. We hope that the budget presented to you on March 18 is reflective of that consideration.

Looking forward to spring and to seeing all of you at Town Meeting!

— Melanie Jewell, Chair, Board of Selectpersons

## Public Works Department Proposal Explained

At its Dec. 20 meeting, the Select Board approved the establishment of an ad-hoc committee to explore the possibility of a future Public Works Department.

The current snow plowing and winter maintenance contract with the Warren Brothers will expire in May 2024 and, to date, no one has indicated that they would like to be considered as our snow plowing contractors. An RFP was sent out to gauge interest in a contract and there were no responses.

At the board's Feb. 21 meeting, named several members, including Jason Stevens (road commissioner), Ken Scheno (transfer station director, ex-officio), Cory Alexander, Carol Johnson (ex-officio) and Lorna Dee Nichols (ex-officio). Anyone who's interested in being on the board should contact the town office.

This **does not mean** that the town intends to set up another department in town without taxpayer approval. The town will continue to explore every other option, such as contracting with area towns for shared services, but wishes to be prepared if there are no viable alternatives. Multiple avenues must be explored such as site location for a facility, engineering costs associated with the construction of a PW building and site, cost involved with purchasing property and equipment as well as labor and benefits costs. Many of the responsibilities of a public works department are currently being handled by the road commissioner and facilities maintenance and, if a PW department is formed in the future, these departments would be enveloped by the department.

The feasibility and long-term sustainability of a future Belgrade Public Works Department has not been decided upon at this time.

In anticipation of a possible need, the board is requesting approval on the town warrant of appropriating \$500,000 from the undesignated fund to fund the creation of a Public Works Capital Reserve, for the purpose of preparing for the possibility that outside contracted resources are not available in future years. In the event that a Public Works Department is not deemed necessary, there will be an article on a future warrant requesting that any unused money from this account be directed back to the undesignated fund.

— Melanie Jewell, Chair, Board of Selectpersons

## Town Manager's Report

We are very excited to meet in person this year for the annual Town Meeting. Town Meeting gives residents the opportunity to discuss openly the articles set before them. Both the Select Board and Budget Committee (and staff) have spent countless hours on this to ensure due diligence.

Participating in this fundamental and important part of local governance represents deliberative democracy at its best.

As we look forward to the 2023 fiscal year, the first project on the radar is appointing trustees for the newly established public water utility as approved by voters in November. As part of the final agreement, the Board will need to appoint three trustees. The Board will take this up in the coming weeks – if you are interested in serving, please let us know.

There are several amendments being proposed to LD 290 (Senior Tax Stabilization) and LD 2003 in the state Legislature that we will be monitoring in the next few months.

LD 290 proposes to replace the stabilization law with an enhanced senior resident homestead exemption, and/or to base the enhancement on income.

HP 135 is being proposed to amend LD 2003 – “An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Zoning and Land Use Restrictions to Limit Certain Requirements to Municipalities with a Population of More than 10,000.” This would directly affect the town, so it is an important proposal to also monitor.

You can find out more information on the bills by visiting [legislature.maine.gov/bills](http://legislature.maine.gov/bills) and entering their numbers.

The state has put into place funding for grant opportunities to help mitigate the brown tail moth population. Once those funds become available, we will explore ways in which the town might secure funds to remove these pests from town facilities. You can find more information at [maine.gov/dacf](http://maine.gov/dacf).

Other items we are working on include ensuring the new water system is designed and set up to best serve those affected; continuing to work with local groups to ensure clean water in our lakes and enhanced erosion control; working with the Dams Committee on repairing the Village dam and completing the Castle Island bridge in early May.

We are definitely gearing up for a busy spring!

— Lorna Dee Nichols, Town Manager

## **Municipal Property Tax Levy Cap And What It Means to Belgrade**

LD1 is a law enacted by the state in 2005 that restricts municipal property tax increases based on an annually calculated growth factor. Using that growth factor, Belgrade establishes a property tax levy limit that limits the amount of property taxes that may be committed for the municipal budget, unless the legislative body votes to exceed or increase the limit calculated.

The property tax levy limit may only be exceeded for extraordinary circumstances outside the control of the municipal legislative body. These circumstances include catastrophic events such as natural disaster, terrorism, fire, war or riot; unfunded or underfunded state or federal mandates; citizen initiatives or other referendums; court orders or decrees; loss of state or federal funding. Exceeding the limit allows the tax levy to exceed the limit for the year in question (2023) but does not increase the base for calculating the limit in future years.

The property tax levy limit may be increased for any reason, without extraordinary circumstances. Increasing the limit permits the tax levy to exceed the limit for the year in question (2023) and also increases the base for calculating the limit for the next year.

Voting to exceed or increase the property tax levy limit requires a separate vote by whatever method is used for adopting the municipal budget. In Belgrade the municipal budget is adopted by the traditional town meeting format this year, with votes being taken in person by a show of hands. The vote to increase or exceed must be by written ballot, with yes/no boxes, and calculated following the vote. A simple majority vote is sufficient to pass or defeat the warrant article.

If the warrant article is defeated, it is up to the legislative body to decrease the budget presented to them by an amount sufficient to match or be below the calculated property tax limit.

The Municipal Property Tax Levy Cap for the town of Belgrade 2023 is \$1,944,675. Warrant Article 29 on the ballot includes language to increase the limit in the event that the municipal budget, if approved, exceeds that property tax limit. At the time of printing, no final figure was available to the Select Board. The number will be provided to voters at town meeting before the vote.

— *Melanie Jewell, Chair, Select Board*

## **Town Meeting is March 17 & 18**

The town will vote for candidates for selectman and school board on March 17, along with special requests articles 3 through 7, by secret ballot referendum.

The election will be held at the Center for All Seasons with the polls open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Absentee ballots are available at the town office, with absentee voting ending March 14.

You may call 207-495-2258 to request a ballot be mailed to you, or you may come to the Town Office to vote absentee.

A recording of the Feb. 7 public hearing on the secret ballot referendum question is posted on the town's YouTube channel. Search YouTube for "Town of Belgrade."

Town Meeting is at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 18, at the Center for All Seasons.

Residents are asked to gather to conduct business on the remaining articles 8 through 29. You must be present to vote!

You must be a registered voter to vote either day. You may register by completing a voter registration card, which requires a photo ID and proof of residency, such as a Maine driver's license with a Belgrade address, a utility bill with a Belgrade physical address, a copy of a lease or rental agreement, or you can swear an oath of residency. The registrar will be present both days for those who need to register.

— *Mary Vogel, Town Clerk*

### **Dog Registrations**

The Town Office has registered 523 dogs for the 2023 registration year since Oct. 15. We thank residents who came into register their dogs and residents who registered online. The online portal for dog registrations is now closed. We would like to remind people if you haven't registered your dog, please come in and do so. Your dog's registration is for the public safety of all residents.

### **Vehicles and Boat Registrations**

When you register your vehicles or boats, please bring your current registration, your proof of insurance and your mileage.

If the vehicle is new to you, please bring the Monroney label (if applicable), a complete bill of sale, proof of sales tax paid, and a completed title for private sales.

## **Town Contacts**

### **Town Manager**

townmanag-  
er@townofbelgrade.com

### **Town Clerk**

townclerk@townofbelgrade.com  
(See Page 1 for information)

### **Belgrade Public Library**

124 Depot Road  
townofbelgrade.com/library  
207-495-3508

Jared Bond, Library Director  
librarydirector@townofbelgrade.com

### **Hours**

10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday  
2-6 p.m. Wednesday, Friday  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday

### **Fire & Rescue**

207-495-7739

### **Emergency: Call 911**

Dan MacKenzie, Fire Chief  
firechief@townofbelgrade.com  
Travis Burton, Rescue Chief  
tubrtton@townofbelgrade.com

### **Parks and Recreation**

Center For All Seasons, 1 Center  
Drive

townofbelgrade.com/recreation  
207-495-3481

Dan MacGlashing, Director  
recreation@townofbelgrade.com

### **Roads**

townofbelgrade.com/roads  
207-649-8070

Jason Stevens, Road Commissioner  
jasonstevens306@yahoo.com

### **Transfer Station**

41 Dunn Road  
townofbelgrade.com/transferstation  
Ken Scheno, Director  
transfer-  
station@townofbelgrade.com

### **Hours**

7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday  
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday  
Noon-5 p.m. Thursday (June-early  
October)

## **Town Committee Openings**

The town has several committee openings. Contact the town office for information.

Assessment Review —2

Budget —1

Comprehensive Plan —3

Appeals Board—2

Roads —2

Parks and Recreation —1

Library Trustees —2

Communications —2

## **New Faces at the Town Office**

### **Hans Rasmussen, Code Enforcement Officer**

I graduated college in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. I immediately went to work in the textile industry and landed with Swiss machinery manufacturer Jacob Muller, the company that developed Velcro. My responsibilities had me traveling extensively across North America and Europe. This taught me how to quickly adapt to different people, cultures and situations. I felt like I was living my retirement years and getting paid. In 2000, the demise of the domestic textile industry created changes in my career path. I eventually started another career in radiology. Code enforcement was not a goal, it just happened and I'm glad it did! The Belgrade town office is a very cohesive group of talented people. I felt welcome immediately and continue to feel proud to be part of the team. I truly enjoy meeting and getting to know the people I encounter while performing my duties. While the situations are not always pleasant, the encounter with fellow residents is, and we can seek out solutions to common goals.

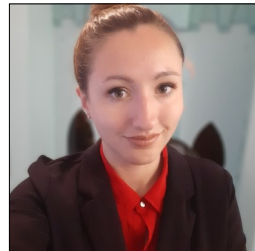


I attend many committee meetings centered around the preservation of our local environment and have become committed to safe septic systems. The topic of sub-surface waste is important throughout all of Belgrade's properties, not just the water-front. Rain runoff carries impurities from all places to a lower point of deposit including our lakes, streams and wetlands. Belgrade is fortunate to have as many residents and groups committed to preserving its resources. As good stewards of our community we are all responsible for constant improvement.

### **Kaitlyn Philbrick, Planning Board Secretary**

I recently accepted the position of secretary to the Planning Board and am excited to work with the town of Belgrade.

I am a single mother who works full time for a nearby municipality. With over a year of experience assisting the Planning Board and code enforcement officer in a different town, I knew that I could be an asset to the town of Belgrade, and by extension, the residents.



My main responsibility in this role is to write minutes of all Planning Board meetings. I feel that this is an important responsibility of the town to ensure that there are accurate and up-to-date records available to anyone who wishes to read them.

The most rewarding aspect of this job is that I get a unique insight into how similar, yet different, the inner workings of each municipality can be. I also value the importance of having these records available to residents who may not have the time in their schedules to attend meetings in person, but wish to stay informed and involved in what's going on in their town.

### **Andrew Dallas, Health Officer**

I am a semi-retired entrepreneur, having founded Full Spectrum Software, a company specializing in medical device software. After serving as an EMT for Belgrade Fire and Rescue as well as at the food pantry, I have a passion for giving back to my community. Along with my wife, who has roots here for generations, and after decades of visiting Belgrade, I am now proud to call it my permanent home. In my new role as the town health officer, I am eager to listen to the concerns of the community and address any immediate health risks and trends. I am dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all townspeople.

# Meet the Candidates

## You Can Still Check Out the Candidate Forum Online

A candidate forum was held at 6:30 p.m. March 1, at the Town Office. Two candidates, Nicholas Alexander and Peter Rushton, who are running to fill a two-year term on the Select Board, participated. Dan Newman, who is running unopposed for a three-year term on the select board and Sara Languet, who is running unopposed for the Regional School Unit 18 Board of Directors, were not able to participate. The forum is available to watch on the town's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

### Select Board Three-Year Term (unopposed)



**Daniel Newman**

**Education:** Cony High School

**Work Experience:** 33 years in fire protection; 25 years on Belgrade Fire Dept.

**Political/Civic Experience:** 12 years on Select Board; six years on Budget committee; serving second term in the Maine State Legislature.

**Reason for running:** To stay involved in the community

**What are the biggest challenges facing Belgrade that the town can address?**

Setting up a community water district; trying to find a new plowing contractor so that we don't have to form a Public Works Department in town.

### Select Board, Two-Year Term



**Peter Rushton**

**Education:** BS Biology, BS Computer Information Systems

**Work Experience:** I have 23 years' experience working for state of Maine; 16 years at DEP, with the last 7 as account manager in Maine Office of Information Technology

**Political/Civic Experience:** I haven't run for any political office before this. For civic experience I have served 21 years on Planning Board, chair since 2007.

**Why are you running for Select Board?**

To join forces with other decision makers to benefit Belgrade. I believe I will be a good fit for the Select Board because I'm even-tempered and collaborative. My approach to solving problems is to first identify and understand problems before proposing solutions.

**What qualifies you for the position?**

My experience working in state government, combined with experience



**Nicholas Alexander**

**Education:** Messalonskee High School graduate; Thomas College, current

**Work experience:** Volunteer Positions

**Political/civic experience:** Board of Appeals, Belgrade; former chair Maine Chapter of Young Republicans, National Federation member; Maine and Kennebec County GOP member; past member Maine Developmental Disability Council.

**Why are you running for Select Board?**

To encourage senior/youth engagement, lower taxes, foster economic development.

**What qualifies you for the position?**

Practical experience in civic issues.

**What are the biggest challenge facing Belgrade and how would you address issues?**

Healthy/balanced living for all. I would address that by listening to all community voices and representing them.

Other priorities are senior inclusion — working and learning with Senior Resource Committee.. Youth engagement/economic development — combining priorities that continue fostering growth and develop-

Continued on Page 7

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# Meet the Candidates

## RSU 18 Board of Directors (unopposed)

Sara H. Languet

**Education:** Mechanical engineer

**Work Experience:** Worked in the manufacturing industry with companies like Kodak, General Motors, International Paper, Puritan Medical, General Electric, and Huhtamaki. Most important- I took a sabbatical to personally attend the upbringing of my three and the end-of-life care of my elders.

**Political/Civic Experience:** I am presently a school board director. I also serve on the planning board and the budget cost sharing formula committees.

**Why are you running?**

I was originally encouraged by a former school board director to run for our school board seat in 2020. Back then, I was familiar with some of the school budget's items, like the new sport complex. Now I am abreast with the budget expenditure stream and very engaged with the ruling the district policies and state laws.

If re-elected, this new term will be a solid opportunity to further educational initiatives while ensuring efficient use of taxes.

**What qualifies you?**

I have an engineering and project management background, with 15 years of continuous and progressive experience in operations and supervision.

**What motivates you to serve?**

Maintaining the high quality of education by attracting the best talent while providing talent retention incentives and ensuring appropriate revenue usage is important.

How will you achieve this?

1. Fostering a nurturing district-wide culture
2. Sustaining strong nutrition programs
3. Keeping up with the best educational technologies
4. Providing fundamental resources to the school staff and facilities
5. Fiscallization of the internal district economy and paradigm that will work towards efficiently and adequately scaffold such needs and resources.

**What else would you like people to know about you?**

I grew up in a Caribbean Island; but I look forward to retiring here in Belgrade Lakes, Maine. I love it here!



Alexander, continued from Page 6

ment. Identifying capacity with our Rec Centers and local businesses to establish a deeply rooted and meaningful community mentoring program modeled after other successful entities such as the Alford Center in Waterville, programs in Augusta, and others across the state and nation. Working with our high school via JMG, and other programs, to prepare incoming candidates.

**What else would you like people to know about you?**

Since I was very active, I have a long-lasting connection with Pine Tree Camp. I had the honor and privilege of being involved in a project building a handicapped accessible tree house — it is perfect! Another project that was close to my heart was a beautiful handicapped accessible playground. As a boy, I wanted to feel what it was like to swing. Now, I can say, with great pride, that dream became a reality at Pine Tree Camp. Please visit Nicholas's Playground! I am very proud of these past accomplishments. I will continue to be there making our beautiful community a better place for everyone.

Rushton, continued from Page 6

volunteering for the town have provided me with unique qualifications for the board.

**What are the biggest challenges facing Belgrade, and what else would you like to say about how you would serve?**

Challenges are balancing tensions between rising costs of services and a finite budget, and having sufficient funding for code enforcement officer duties.

Motivations are keeping an eye on practices which best protect water quality is a priority; awareness that taxpayers in Belgrade have a wide variety of expectations from town government and concern about tax revenue. Some ideas to address these issues are to explore any opportunity to support and fund CEO efforts and the Planning Board, and utilize and leverage open communication in order to gather requirements from the taxpayers.

**What else would you like people to know about you?**

1. My wife is very supportive of my time spent serving Belgrade. 2. I'm a twin.

To watch video of Select Board meetings and more, check out the town's YouTube channel. Go on YouTube and search "Town of Belgrade"

## Recycling Textiles Can Help Lower Taxes

There's one way Belgrade residents can take an active part in lowering their tax bill — recycling textiles.

Many may not be aware, but there is a textile recycling bin next to the Too Good to Throw Away shack at the Transfer Station. It is maintained by Apparel Impact, of Manchester, N.H., at no cost to the town.

Think recycling textiles isn't a big deal? Do the math.

The town pays a fee to have all its rubbish hauled from the transfer station. In 2022, the town sent out 1,176.33 tons of waste, which cost \$105,812, an average of \$89.95 a ton.

Textiles make up an average of 8-10% of municipal waste, studies have shown. They're heavy, and even heavier when they're wet, which they'll get when they mix in the hopper with other waste.

Apparel Impact accepts both wearable clothing and other items, which it distributes to Maine and New Hampshire families in need, as well as clothing and other textiles that

are no longer usable (see list). Items must be dry and free of mold and odor, otherwise, they'll take them. They prefer you bag what you put in the bin, but they'll take items that aren't bagged, too;

Belgrade averages about 4.5 tons a year. Compare that to some of the other towns that have Apparel Impact bins — Athens, with a population of about 1,000 (a third of Belgrade's), recycles 14 tons; Mexico, with about the same population as Belgrade, 44.4 tons.

Increasing the amount of textiles we recycle and taking those tons of waste out of what goes to the landfill may only represent a fraction of the town's overall tax bill, but every penny counts.

Even if you don't care about the environment and the amount of waste going into landfills (though you should) — every cent makes a difference, and recycling textiles will help lower our tax bills.

— Maureen Milliken, Communications Committee



The textile recycling bin is next to the Too Good to Throw Away shed at the transfer station.

### Acceptable Items List

**Items do NOT have to be wearable — they can have stains, be torn, etc. They just have to be dry and have no mold or odor.**

Clothing	Pocketbooks
Coats/Jackets	Backpacks
Winter gear	Duffle bags
Sheets/Towels	Belts
All footwear (including boots and cleats)	Gloves
Hats	Ties
Purses	Scarves
Bags	Bathrobes
	Jewelry
	Any cloth/textiles

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## Cemetery Committee Report

New cemetery lot prices will be voted on at the Town Meeting on March 17.

In other news, the Cemetery Committee has been working on making revisions to the Cemetery Ordinance, improving the wording and implementing new regulations in to improve the safety for the public and the beauty of the cemetery.

- The committee, along with Hal-lowell Construction, continues to work on Plan 5. This year, people

will be permitted in the new section. Lots throughout Pine Grove cemetery will be assigned from now on, and the public will not be allowed to pick spaces without the sexton's approval.

- Lot owners from now on will not be allowed to plant any kind of tree, shrub, or bush.
- Vegetation already planted on a lot must not exceed 4 feet in height and 3 feet in circumference. These trees and shrubs must be main-

tained by the owner.

- All water in Pine Grove is now salt free.
- Families in need of a graveside service must make arrangements with the sexton at least 48 hours in advance. Those who plan to buy monuments or markers must contact the sexton in advance for approval and instructions on correct placement prior to installation.
- All winter decorations must be removed by May 15.

## Fire & Rescue Department

This year has been another busy one for Belgrade Fire & Rescue. Our department had 517 total calls for service, which is an increase from the 468 calls last year.

The fire department and Belgrade community lost two previous fire chiefs this year. Fire Chief Skip Hammond was an assistant fire chief from 1954-1963 then went on to be the Fire Chief from 1964-1986. Fire Chief Richard “Rick” Damren started serving on the department in 1970 and was on our ranks until his passing in 2022. Rick was North Belgrade assistant chief from 1979-1986 and fire chief from 1987-2000.

Both men were dedicated to the Belgrade community and will be greatly missed. Our sympathies go out to their friends and families.

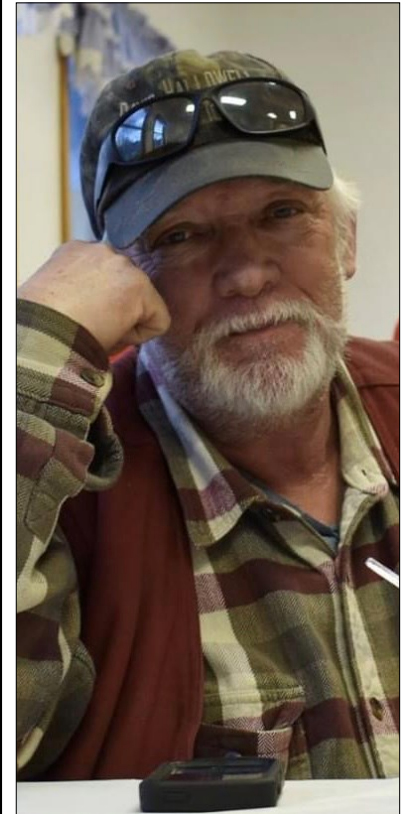
We would like to recognize our firefighter and rescue member of the year.

They are Assistant Chief Bruce Galouch and Lieutenant Steve Smith. Both showed dedication to the department and community. We also want to recognize retired Rescue Chief/Advanced EMT Lisa Day, who retired in 2022 after serving Belgrade Rescue for 30 years.

We also awarded Deputy Chief William “Bill” Pulsifer for his 70 years of dedicated service.

As always, we want to thank the townspeople of Belgrade for their continued support to help us provide the best protection and service to the town of Belgrade.

— Dan Mackenzie, Fire Chief



**Rick Damren**

**1955-2022**

Rick Damren, a long-time member of the Fire Department, Select Board, and dedicated community member, died Oct. 28, 2022.

“Rick’s longstanding service to the town of Belgrade has created ripples which will be felt for decades to come,” a Facebook post from town officials said. “One of Rick’s favorite sayings, ‘I don’t work for (insert whom-ever he was talking about), I work for the citizens of Belgrade!’ sums up who he was at the core.

Every decision that he ever made on behalf of the citizens was made with the intention of growing Belgrade while maintaining the roots and core values that are the foundation of our community.”

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## Parks & Recreation Department

2022 was a big year for the Parks and Recreation Department. We had growing pains, but also have a lot of positive news.

At the end of 2022, the department surpassed its revenue goal by \$19,912, totaling \$79,912. Both the Center

for All Seasons and North Belgrade Community Center had an increase in use, and both were booked for rentals most weekends. If you are planning a gathering, give us a call!

It is important to update the public on increases in our budget for the coming year. There will be increases in personnel costs (\$12,020+) to adequately pay our staff and provide appropriate staffing for our growing programming. Our transportation costs (\$6,000+) have increased to reflect relative costs and growing numbers at our summer camps. In addition, we will also be able to add at least two senior trips on top of our

Fryeburg Fair trip.

Our pool needs repairs (\$7,000) to open for the summer season and needs updates to pass a state inspection. This will also include safety devices, updated signs, comprehensive labeling and an upgraded gate.

We have been progressively busier.

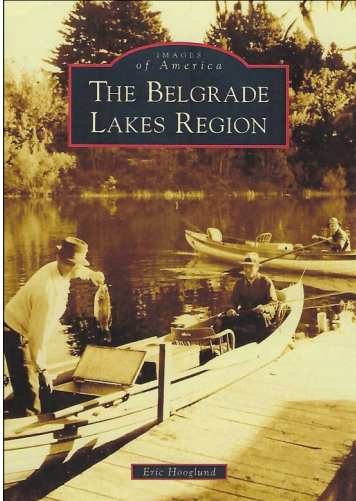
Our children’s programs continue to maintain solid double-digit numbers and provide the community with much needed childcare options. We have continued to roll out more programming, like our Monday Morning Wake Up Walk, and our Thursday night disc golf Putting Program.

As we get into 2023, we will be expanding programming for all ages and working with individuals and groups to get the programs the community wants and needs.

— Dan MacGlashing, Parks & Recreation Director

## 2023 in Belgrade Will be One for the Books

### Belgrade Setting of New Paul Doiron Book



### New Belgrade Historical Book Out this Month

Belgrade Historical Society is happy to announce the publication of “Images of America: The Belgrade Lakes Region,” by Belgrade Historical Society Curator, Eric Hooglund.

The book is a wonderful compilation of black and white photographs taken from the Belgrade Historical Society collection, with historical descriptive paragraphs.

The book is due out in late March and the Belgrade Historical Society will be sponsoring several author signings this spring and summer.

For more information, visit [belgradehistoricalsociety.org](http://belgradehistoricalsociety.org) or email the BHS at [belgrade-historicalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:belgrade-historicalsociety@gmail.com).

The historical society always welcomes new members, and is planning some exciting events this year.

— Dianne Dowd, President, Belgrade Historical Society

Many Belgrade book lovers are already familiar with author Paul Doiron — he fills the library when he visits. So, it’s exciting news that his 14th Mike Bowditch thriller, “Dead Man’s Wake,” is set in our town.

The Belgrade Public Library and Oliver & Friends Bookstore are collaborating on an appearance by Doiron sometime shortly after the book launches June 27. Since Doiron draws a crowd, we are working on a venue that will have enough room for everyone who wants to attend. Keep an eye out for more information as details are nailed down.

Here’s the synopsis: Game Warden Mike Bowditch's engagement party is interrupted by the discovery of a gruesome double murder. On the evening of their engagement party, Bowditch and Stacey Stevens witness what seems to be a hit-and-run speedboat crash on a darkened lake. When they arrive at the scene, their spotlight reveals a gruesome sight: a severed arm beneath the surface. As day breaks, the warden dive team recovers not one, but two bodies. Suspects abound on the lake, nicknamed "Golden Pond." Alone among his fellow officers, Mike begins to sense the involvement of a trained professional, smarter and more dangerous than any enemy he has faced.

Those not familiar with Doiron’s books, and even readers who aren’t fans of the genre, may still enjoy listening to Doiron’s talk and checking out his books. Doiron is a registered Maine guide, and his books featuring Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch take place all over the state. They’ve won many state, regional and national awards and have been translated into 11 languages.

We look forward to once again hosting Paul and proving that Belgrade is not a hotbed of murder, but full of people who love good books.

— Maureen Milliken, Chair, Belgrade Public Library Board of Trustees



Paul Doiron in a 2016 appearance at Belgrade Public Library. The library and Oliver & Friends Book Shop are collaborating on an appearance by Doiron this summer, after his new book, set in Belgrade, comes out.

### Community Read and Library Events

The 2023 Community Read will be “This Wild Land: Two Decades of Adventure as a Park Ranger,” by Andrew Vietze. Keep an eye out on the library Facebook page and elsewhere in town for events, and more, associated with the read.

A new reading buddies program that pairs youngsters with high school students launched Feb. 25. Check out the

library Facebook page or library page on the town website for information.

And keep an eye out for the ever popular Book Bingo, starting soon.

Don’t forget about the iCloud library, where, with your library card number, you can access audio books, ebooks and more. Visit the library page on the town website and click on “audio books & ebooks” to get started.



Participants in a recent Monday Morning Wake-Up Walk include Fred-di Ladd, Sara Languet, Kathy Levasseur, Diane Dowd, Jean Perkins, Ruth Barker, Vivian Roy, Susan Perrino, Cheryl Cook and Camber. The walk is free and open to all, a collaboration of the Senior Resources Committee and the Parks and Recreation Department. (Dan MacGlash-ing photo)

## Senior Resources Committee

The Senior Resource Committee holds the following program-ming for seniors at the North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield Road and Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive. All pro-grams are free and open to all.

Movie — Monday, 2 p.m., NBCC.

Senior Walks – Monday, 9 a.m. CFAS.

Pickle Ball — Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-Noon, CFAS, \$1 fee, all equipment is provided.

Coffee, Tee & Conversation — Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m., SFAS.

Craft Days — Thursday, 9 a.m.-Noon, NBCC.

The committee is also looking to bring back Game Days on Tues-day afternoons at NBCC. Check the Senior Resource Page on the town website for updates.

A new free program that began in February is Balance Strengthen-ing for Seniors. It's a great chance to work on your balance and work out with friends, led by Hazel Labbe, a personal trainer. Two Febru-ary sessions were a big success, and more may be planned.

The committee is planning on expanding opportunities for seniors this year and we are always looking for volunteers to help with pro-gramming. If you are interested and available and would like to or-ganize or just oversee a program for seniors, please call the town of-fice at 495-2258 and ask for Mary.

The committee continues to distribute File of Life Folders, which are available at the Town Office. They are a red magnetic folder that may be placed on your refrigerator with emergency information in them.

— Mary Vogel, Chair, Senior Resources Committee

## Dams Report

Greetings from the Belgrade Inter-lakes Dams Committee.

Our water levels are still not quite at their winter storage levels — 18-24" below full for Great and Long Ponds and 12" below full for our friends on Salmon and McGrath. As if anyone really cares this time of the year! Long Pond is almost there at 16.8" below full, Great Pond at 13" below and Salmon basically there at 11" below.

Our dedicated volunteer Dams Committee members continue to be proactive dislodging the ice from our gates – a difficult but neces-sary task this time of year.

We do not have an exact age as to how old the Village dam concrete abutments and struc-ture is, but we can see that serious concrete deterioration has been going on for at least the past 27 years. The concrete has been cosmeti-cally patched over the years, but moisture has permeated the patches and concrete down to the rebar which, during its rusting process, has further deteriorated the concrete around fur-ther breaking it down to, basically, mush.

The process has been further exacerbated by the road salt coming off the Route 27 bridge, as evidenced by the greater break-down closer to the bridge.

Patching is no longer an option and a com-prehensive repair of the entire concrete dam is required to the tune of \$100,000. Without re-pair, components of the dam are certain to fail. We need to make these repairs this coming spring and have included this expense in the 2023 Dams Budget.

We have looked to the county, state and federal governments for some infrastructure assistance, but to date, our needs have fallen on deaf ears. So, it looks like we will need the continued support of our town in addition to the other four towns in our Inter-local Dams Agreement.

Best to all and thank you for your contin-ued support! Stay warm!

— Dick Greenan, Chair,  
Belgrade Inter-lakes Dams Committee

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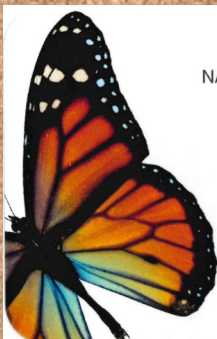
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8 a.m. Contemplative Service (Half Hour)

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

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Live Stream @9:30 on Facebook and our website,

www.unionchurchofbelgradelakes.org

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Hammond Lumber is generously sponsoring the Belgrade Bulletin, supporting the cost of mailing it to all residents. Thank you, Hammond!

## **Town Boards & Committees**

**Board of Selectpersons** 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

**Appeals Board**

4th Wednesday, 7 p.m.

**Communications Committee**

2nd Wednesday, 6 p.m.

**Roads Committee**

4th Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.

**Board of Parks & Rec**

Last Monday 6:30 p.m.

**Library Trustees**

1st Thursday, 7 p.m.

**Senior Resource Committee**

4th Monday, 6:30 p.m.

**Cemetery Committee**

2nd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

**Planning Board**

1st & 3rd Thursday, 6 p.m.

**Transfer Station Committee**

2nd Monday, 7 p.m.

**Check [townofbelgrade.com](http://townofbelgrade.com) for a full schedule of boards, committees and meetings, as well as agendas, minutes, Zoom links and other information.**

The Belgrade Bulletin is published three or four times a year by the Communications Committee.

For a color copy of the Bulletin, as well as previous newsletters, visit [townofbelgrade.com](http://townofbelgrade.com).

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