

Belgrade Bulletin

June 2020



BELGRADE TOWN OFFICE

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Belgrade, ME 04917

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townofbelgrade.com

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TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Wednesday, Friday

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS

Michael Barrett, chair (2020)

Melanie Jewell (2022)

Richard Damren (2022)

Ernst Merckens, vice chair (2021)

Kathleen Wall (2021)

STAFF

Anthony Wilson
Town Manager

Mary Vogel
Town Clerk

Nicholas Poole
Treasurer
Tax Collector

Charlene Houle
Deputy Clerk
Registrar

Select Board Highlights March-June

At the last printing of the Belgrade Bulletin, in February, the Select Board and Budget Committee were very busy finalizing warrant articles to be voted upon March 20 and 21. How incredibly things have changed since then! We are thankful for modern technology, which has enabled the Select Board to continue to conduct business, albeit in a very different manner. Zoom meetings have become the norm, and participation has been up, since the meetings are available in live time, online, as well as being streamed on Facebook Live. Signatures required of the board for town business are being executed using electronic signatures.

Some highlights from the last four months:

- Consideration was given to tax abatements and supplemental taxes as recommended by the assessors agent.
- The Regional School Unit 18 superintendent presented information regarding the budget hearing and impending vote on the school budget year 2020-21.
- Several items were postponed, balancing necessity of the expenditure and uncertainty of revenues upon which we rely to balance the town budget.
- Town meeting was canceled, because of COVID-19 restrictions. It was agreed all town warrant articles will be voted on by secret ballot on July 14, 2020, coinciding the state election and RSU 18 budget referendum.
- Memorial Day celebrations were changed to reflect the concerns of public gatherings and the potential spread of COVID-19. The parade and in-person reading of Belgrade veterans names was canceled, but several members of the community read the names aloud during a Facebook live presentation.
- The board listened to and acted upon several decisions surrounding a controlled reopening of town services (find details in this newsletter).
- KWYSP was granted, permission to reinstate summer youth sports programming on town property and will coordinate with area organizations that participate to follow recommended safety practices.
- The Transfer Station recycling program was suspended for a time, but is now back up and running. (Details in newsletter).
- Consideration and subsequent adoption of written minutes of Select Board Meetings to be the official record; audio recordings will still be available.
- The formation of a joint committee with members of the Maine DOT and the town was approved to study salt water well contamination issue. The committee will explore recommendations for a long-term solution, as well as short term remedies, and report back to the board for review and action.

Town Manager's Report

A line in an old Scottish poem roughly translates to, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go astray." So it is with this year's Town Meeting.

In lieu of a large gathering marked by spirited debate over town business, Belgrade residents on July 14 will decide the fate of proposed warrant articles by secret ballot only. This is, of course, in keeping with mandated public health precautions.

Everything about our world has changed. That includes the town's finances. Most significantly, we will suffer a reduction in state revenue sharing, though we don't yet know the impact. So, we have doubled down on our fiscal conservatism, examining every expenditure beforehand and actively seeking to reduce costs. Most notably, we have frozen hiring and merit pay raises built into the budget (even though our public servants definitely deserve them).

Fortunately, we had a solid plan to begin with. Budget Committee member Tom Dowd challenged me to tap into the town's healthy undesignated fund and make good public use of tax dollars previously collected but not spent. We've found a fiscally wise way to do that. Rather than raising and appropriating tax dollars for one-time capital purchases and to build capital reserves for future projects, we are instead using \$199,394 in undesignated funds. Additionally, we are using \$91,000 in capital reserves in this budget. Together, that reduces the tax burden by nearly \$300,000. And that's in addition to a \$300,000 reduction in the overall budget.

All of that is to say, the staff, the Budget Committee and the Select Board worked diligently to reduce the municipal portion of the property tax rate. As a reminder, about two-thirds of your property taxes support the local school system and about 8 percent supports county government. The town collects all those tax dollars, but we keep only about one-fourth of what is raised, redistributing the rest to the schools and the county.

Great thought went into the town budget, which was widely distributed in the annual report (available at townofbelgrade.com/townreport). All involved agreed that blowing up that budget and putting new articles on the July 14 ballot would only confuse voters. Instead, we are making a request and a promise.

We ask that you support the budget; we believe it to be a solid financial plan. We also vow to work like the dickens to reduce costs to meet revenue. That is not to say we will unquestionably achieve that. 2020 has taught us no one knows what the future holds. But we are thoroughly committed to living within our means, appreciating you may be struggling to do the same in your household.

Questions about the budget? Please contact me at 207-495-2258 or townmanager@townofbelgrade.com. I'm happy to talk with you.

– Anthony Wilson, Town Manager

Cemetery Fee Upgrade on Town Budget Ballot

Belgrade residents will consider price increases for plots and services at town cemeteries when they vote on the budget.. The increases may seem steep until they are put into the context of what other towns charge. The hikes would generate more earnings for cemetery maintenance and reduce the tax burden.

For generations, a single cemetery lot has cost \$50 for Belgrade residents and \$250 for non-residents who qualify. Full burials (casket and vault) has cost \$350 and \$75 for cremation burials. There has been no extra charge for weekend or holiday burials, which require town staff to work on their days off.

Compare that against other towns in the chart at the right.

The Cemetery Committee has proposed \$200 for a single cemetery lot for residents and \$450 for non-residents. Full burials would cost \$450 and cremation burials \$150. Weekend and holiday burials increase to \$500 for full and \$250 for cremation.

The committee believes the proposed increases not only reflect going rates in neighboring communities, but will revenue that will serve the cemeteries well for generations to come.

Town	One space	Full burial	Cremation burial	Weekend/holiday burial
Belgrade	\$50 res/ \$250 non	\$350	\$75	no extra charge
Oakland	\$300 res/ \$600 non	\$400	\$150	\$500 full/ \$250 cre
Sidney	\$300	\$500	\$250	\$550 full/ \$200 cre
Rome	\$100	\$500	\$150	no extra charge
Norridgewock	\$250	\$500	\$250	\$600 full/ \$300 cre
Skowhegan	\$200	\$500	\$250	\$600 full/ \$300 cre
Manchester	\$300	\$500	\$300	\$600 full/ \$400 cre
Readfield	\$400	\$500	\$300	\$600 full/ \$400 cre
Windsor	\$200 res/ \$700 non	\$475	\$175	\$575 full/ \$225 cre
Somerville	\$200 res/ \$700 non	\$475	\$175	\$575 full/ \$225 cre
Farmington	\$300	\$500	\$300	\$600 full/ \$300 cre

July 14 Town, School and State Election

Town voting procedures

Voters on July 14 will cast ballots in three elections: one for the town's warrant articles, one for the RSU 18 budget and one in the state primaries.

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office, 990 Augusta Road, through election day for those who prefer not to vote in person. The Secretary of State's office is urging voters to make use of the opportunity to vote early. The hope is that a large absentee turnout will reduce the number of people gathered at the polls on election day, minimizing the risk of the coronavirus spreading in the community.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots in the town, RSU 18 and state elections are available at the Town Office from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays until (and including) July 14, and until 7 p.m. Thursdays. Ballots may be picked up by spouses or, with permission, by third parties.

The ballots may be filled out at the Town Office. However, because of the length of the town ballot (which includes 50-plus warrant articles normally decided at town meeting), voters may want to take their ballots home and return them to the Town Office at their convenience. The Town Office drop box is on the north side of the building. Absentee ballots may be returned through 8 p.m. July 14, either in the drop box or at the Center for All Seasons, the town's polling place.. (For more on absentee voting see article on this page)

In-Person Voting Procedure

Polls will be open 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, at the Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive along Route 27. Town residents who are not registered voters may register and vote on election day.

Election workers will wear masks; voters are encouraged to do the same.

- Depending upon the weather, voters will queue up six feet apart from one another either outside, on the center's portico, or along its gymnasium walls.
- Voters will be issued a pen when they receive their ballot and will drop it into a container for sanitizing when they turn in their ballot.
- Hand sanitizer will be available, and surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day.
- Traffic through the building will be one-way.

Questions about the election can be directed to 207-495-2258 or townclerk@townofbelgrade.com.



Voting by Absentee Ballot

Absentee ballots are available for anyone who would like to vote that way. To get one, call the town office at 207-495-2258, visit the town office in person, or get one online through the Maine Secretary of State's Office maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/online-form.pl.

You can apply for an absentee ballot anytime, even the day of the election. Keep in mind that if you request the absentee ballot be mailed to you, leave at least five days for delivery.

Once you complete the ballot, be sure to sign the back of the envelope. **Your ballot won't be counted unless the envelope is signed.**

Those who request a ballot within five days of the election should pick it up at the town office. Ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, by mail or in person at the town office. There is a secure drop box outside the town office specifically for absentee ballots. Absentee ballots may also be turned in at the Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive (Route 27), before 8 p.m. July 14.

Postage on the ballots is \$2; returning it at one of the drop boxes is free.

Belgrade Results of March 3 Primary

Democratic Presidential Primary:

J. Biden: 145, M. Bloomberg: 63, P. Buttigieg: 14, T. Gabbard: 2, A. Klobachar: 7, B. Sanders: 100, E. Warren: 53, A. Yang: 1, Blank: 6

Republican Presidential Primary:

D. Trump: 331, Blank: 46

Question 1: People's Veto to overturn vaccine law that eliminates religious and philosophical exemption

Yes: 309, No: 670, Blank: 1

Meet the Candidates!

A candidate forum will be held via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 8. Candidates participating are Michael Barrett and Dan Newman, both running for Select Board; Sara Languet, running unopposed for the RSU 18 school board seat; and Jason Stevens, running unopposed for roads commissioner.

The public is invited to attend by Zoom or by Facebook Live. The link to Zoom and Facebook can be found on the home page of the town's website, www.townofbelgrade.com

The public can submit questions to the candidates by email to reginacoppens@yahoo.com as well as ask questions during the forum using the Zoom chat feature. Belgrade resident Jay Bradshaw will moderate. The forum is hosted by the town Communications Committee.

Name: Michael Barrett

Position sought: Selectperson

Lived in Belgrade since: April 1996

Why are you running for select board? I have a love of this community and the townspeople. I would like Belgrade to continue going and growing in the right direction during these changing times and pressures.

What qualifies you for the position? I have been a selectperson for two terms (six years). I have been exposed to and have had to deal with the highs and lows of running the town. In addition, I have served on a number of committees and boards. These include the Board of Appeals, the Library Board of Trustees and the ad hoc Main Street planning committee.

What do you view as the biggest challenge facing our community? Keeping the municipal budget to a manageable level while providing the needed and desired services that the town provides.

How would you seek to address that? Making sure that the proposed budgets put before the voters are conservative and yet provide needed services. By making sure that funds given us are spent wisely. By working closely with the Budget Committee and town manager to meet these goals.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about those. Care of our lakes and other resources, guiding growth to maintain the character of Belgrade that we all love, while facilitating economic growth that benefits the town. Dealing with the coming problem of salt-contaminated wells and the town's possible liability. Assessing the possible alternatives to correct the problem. Dealing with the State to try to get them to be as reasonable as possible.

The best thing about living in Belgrade is ... The beauty of the area. The feeling of community that exists here. And the people of Belgrade, which make it all worthwhile. They are all my friends and neighbors.

Name: Dan Newman

Position sought: Selectperson

Lived in Belgrade since: 1995

Why are you running for Select-board? Because I believe anyone that runs for office needs to go into the position without any preconceived opinions on budget items and proposals having to do with the town's business or its citizens best interests.

What qualifies you for the position? Board member, from 2007 to 2015

What do you view as the biggest challenge facing our community? Balancing the needs and wants of the taxpayers with the reality of the increasing tax burden and the ability for our aging residents to remain in their homes.

How would you seek to address that? We need to find a way to increase business expansion on existing businesses, attract new businesses that do not negatively impact the beauty of the Belgrade area, encourage more tourism, and attract more families to the area.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about those. See the answer above.

The best thing about living in Belgrade is ... I have been on the Fire Department since 1998, so sense of community is a big part of it. Also, Belgrade is within 20 minutes of two large cities that can provide what can't be purchased locally, but our town is rural enough so that you don't feel like you live near the cities. It can sometimes feel like a Norman Rockwell painting with the Holiday Stroll, Fourth of July in the village, and the other community events throughout the year.

Name: Sara H. Languet

Position sought: Belgrade representative to RSU 18 School Board

Lived in Belgrade since: Fall 1997

Why are you running for School Board? I am running at the invitation and encouragement of a former School Board representative. I attended several town meetings dealing with the school board budget and other initiatives, and found the discussions interesting. I also found during these meetings I had skills and knowledge that would benefit the decision-making process within our school district.

What qualifies you for the position? I have a strong background in engineering and management, with 15 years of continuous and progressive experience in project management and supervision.

What do you view as the biggest challenge facing RSU 18? The exodus of our native young professionals together with the silent issue of a growing older population interested in retiring to southern warmer climates, which leave us with a shrinking population of "unsupported" new families and smaller school enrollment with the same overhead costs.

How would you seek to address that? I'm not sure how those kind of migration dynamics can be smoothed or reconciled. But for certain I know that if we plan to sustain our way of life here, we have got to maintain a high quality and excellence of education so when young strong families decide to settle in New England, they will consider the Messalonskee district among their top choices, if not the "dream place" to live in. We want

(Continued next page)

Meet the Candidates

Name: Jason Stevens

Position sought: Road commissioner

Lived in Belgrade since: Born and raised here for 44 years

Why are you running for road commissioner? I feel I have the experience, motivation and knowledge to improve and maintain our roads.

What qualifies you for the position? I have more than 18 years of experience working with Maurice Childs on town roads, as well as more than 25 years in the excavation business.

What do you view as the biggest challenge facing our local roads? I feel the biggest challenge is the build-up of winter sand on the shoulders of our roads and in our ditches and culverts.

How would you seek to address that? I would grade the shoulders of the road, and clean the ditches and culverts.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about those. I would cut back brush and trees where needed on the roads, and seal and fix cracks in the roads from frost heaves.

The best thing about living in Belgrade is ... The friendly atmosphere and the beautiful outdoors.

(Languet continued)

to be the place to live, work and play (meaning retiring, too) ... and it all starts with a solid high-tech, high-touch education.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about those. Besides maintaining a high level of education and athleticism in our school district, other outstanding needs are:

1. To keep the school budget as low as possible by responsibly analyzing and exploring every line-item cost.
2. To create initiatives that attract new young families possibly by continuing to strengthen athletic and extracurricular programs (like music).

The best things about living in Belgrade are ... Its lake resources, its quality of life and the awesome community-oriented and educated neighbors in our town.

RSU 18 Superintendent's Report

The last few months have been difficult to say the least, and I know everyone has been impacted. Our students missed out on many of their traditional year-end events, parents had to take on the role of teacher, and countless people lost their jobs. I hope everyone is starting to recover and is keeping safe.

Soon we will vote on the school budget for next year. Preparing a budget always has challenges. This year, the number of unknowns has made developing a budget especially challenging.

This budget has been prepared with the expectation our students will return to school in the fall. In mid-June, the state Department of Education released guidelines to help schools prepare to return. While these guidelines are helpful, we all know they will change a few times in the upcoming weeks. But seeing back-to-school guidelines starting to come out from the state is a positive and big first step in the return to normal.

In June, we held our district budget meeting at Messalonskee Middle School. At that meeting, taxpayers from all five towns in RSU 18 passed a budget of \$39,810,018. This is an increase of 2.9 percent. More than half of this increase will be offset by additional state subsidy.

However, there is a chance we will face a budget curtailment next year. This would mean the state would not send us all the money it has said we would receive. In previous years when the state has struggled financially, schools have had to deal with this loss of money. This year we need to be ready in the event this happens. The first step we are taking to protect our district is: any money we can save this spring, we are saving to build a backup revenue source in case the state cuts our funding in the middle of next year.

In short, we are trying to make decisions now that will prevent financial problems later. Preparing ahead of time is our best path to protect our district and our taxpayers.

RSU 18 is an educational leader in central Maine and across the state. Please join us in supporting this budget when you vote July 14.

– Carl Gartley, RSU 18 Superintendent

Tax Collector's Report

The town plans to commit 2020 property taxes at the July 21 Select Board meeting, which will be conducted on Zoom. Check the calendar at townofbelgrade.com for the link.

Once property taxes are committed, the town will forward all tax information to a vendor that prepares and mails tax bills. Residents should begin receiving tax bills in early August. Taxes are due Friday, Sept. 4.

After Sept. 4, unpaid taxes will start to accumulate interest daily. Taxpayers can call the Town Office at 207-495-2258 after July 22 to learn the amount of their 2020 property taxes. Taxpayers can also use the town's online services to make payments or mail a check to Town of Belgrade, 990 Augusta Road, Belgrade, ME 04917.

Thirty-day tax lien notices were mailed May 28 for unpaid 2019 taxes. If 2019 taxes were not paid by 4:30 p.m. June 29, the property has had a lien placed on it. Owners of property with liens should call the Town Office or email treasurer@townofbelgrade.com with questions.



Hash marks outside the town office help visitors socially distance.
(Maureen Milliken photo)

Town office Is Open, but With New Procedures

Belgrade's Town Office is open, but with measures in place to protect the public's health.

In keeping with the governor's executive order, masks that cover the nose and chin must be worn in the Town Office by town employees and visitors. Those with breathing trouble or related medical conditions are urged to instead call the Town Office at 207-495-2258; we will make every effort to remotely help those residents. Online services can be accessed at townofbelgrade.com/onlineservices.

Public health procedures in place are:

- To ensure safe social distancing, no more than three visitors are allowed in the office simultaneously – one at each available customer service window.
- One person at a time is allowed in the building's alcove; once a window is vacated, the person in the alcove may proceed into the office. Otherwise, visitors line up outside the building. The sidewalk is marked with hashes at least 6 feet apart.
- One-way foot traffic. Visitors enter the front door and exit through a side door to prevent crossing paths.
- Plexiglas shields spanning the customer service windows.
- Hand sanitizer at each window. Its use is encouraged.
- Counter shields, countertops, doorknobs and other implements are sanitized throughout the day.
- Pens are also available. Once used, a pen is dropped into a separate container for sanitizing before it is reused.

The new procedures are posted on the front door, in the alcove and at the customer service windows.

The Town Office, 990 Augusta Road, is open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays and until 7 p.m. Thursdays.

Because the state of Maine has restricted public gatherings to 50 people and the public health threat persists, this year's July 4 festivities in Belgrade have regrettably been canceled.

Familiar Faces, New Roles at Belgrade Town Office

Visitors to the Town Office will see some familiar faces in new seats, as town employees Mary Vogel and Nick Poole were recently promoted.

Vogel has been promoted to town clerk. She replaces Cheryl Mitchell, who recently resigned.

As town clerk, Vogel is responsible for all of the front office activities at the Town Office, including registrations, issuing licenses, tax collection and records maintenance. Additionally, she is the deputy treasurer, assistant administrator of the General Assistance program and the deputy registrar. In the latter role, she will assist Registrar and Deputy Clerk Charlene Houle in upcoming elections.

She has 19 years of service to the town, most recently as treasurer and a deputy clerk. She has also been town executive secretary. Additionally, she is on the senior resources and comprehensive plan oversight committees.

Poole, has been promoted to town treasurer. It's the fifth promotion he earned since taking a job at the recycling center at the Transfer Station in 2015. In 2016, he transitioned to deputy clerk at the Town Office. The following year, he was appointed to serve as the town's Bureau of Motor Vehicles agent, the liaison with the state agency responsible for vehicle registrations. In 2018, he added tax collector responsibilities. Last year, he was appointed deputy treasurer. He had served as interim treasurer since March.

A Mount Vernon native, Poole graduated from Maranacook Community High School. He studied computer science at the University of Maine at Farmington.

2nd Fulltime Firefighter is on July 14 Ballot

Residents July 14 will vote on whether to add a second full-time firefighter/emergency medical services position in the Belgrade Fire & Rescue Department. The position is needed because of declining numbers of volunteer firefighters, decreasing availability of EMS personnel and aging community demographics.

If approved, the full-time employee would give the community on-duty staffing for 10 hours a day, seven days a week. Funding would be split with Rome, whose voters have approved the measure. The additional firefighter/EMS would be a Belgrade employee, and be stationed in Belgrade, though he or she would respond to calls in Belgrade and Rome.

Voters will also consider a cost recovery ordinance that would allow the town to bill insurance companies to recover Fire Department costs for responding to incidents such as vehicle crashes. Belgrade taxpayers would be exempt.

Money generated would help fund the cost of the additional firefighter's salary. If the ordinance had existed in January 2019, when the department responded to a tanker truck fire on Route 27, the town would have recovered approximately \$36,000.

The department plans to move forward with plans to build a new fire station in the Depot area, though the economic impact of the pandemic may delay it. The current station has no running water, no room to walk around the trucks (which complicates performing mandatory truck checks), and no space for offices. A new station would allow staff to be centrally stationed in the middle of town.

The FD building committee is searching for land and appreciates ideas. Contact Fire Chief is Dan MacKenzie, 495-7735, belgrade-fire@townofbelgrade.com.



Transfer Station Director Ken Scheno loads some compost, which is free to town residents. (Steve Buschbaum photo)

Recycling Has Returned to the Transfer Station

Recycling has returned to the Transfer Station, although the service does not look like it has in the past. Because the Recycling Center can get crowded, the chief concern is ensuring safe social distances.

To spread the number of people recycling over more days, the center is open 1-7 p.m. on Tuesday, for recycling only. (Hours are subject to change). Recycling is also accepted during regular Transfer Station hours: 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesdays, noon-5 p.m. Thursdays and 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays.

- Glass and cans are collected near the rubbish hopper. Cans are placed with heavy metals.
- Plastics are collected outside the Recycling Center, beyond the last window.
- Windows at the Recycling Center are open for cardboard, paper, magazines and newspaper, with every other window closed.
- To help with social distancing, there are marked lines on the pavement six feet from each window and the lane closest to the building is blocked.
- To keep traffic flowing and to be courteous to your neighbors, please do your best to sort your recyclables before you come to the Recycling Center.

Other items of interest at the Transfer Station are:

Compost: We have free compost that has been aged two years. Bring your shovel and buckets, and take as much as you'd like. Or make an appointment and we will load your truck or trailer. For an appointment, call 207-592-0678, email kscheno@townofbelgrade.com, or stop in and see us during open hours.

Pet food/supplies: We are accepting donations of unwanted, unused or unneeded pet supplies for the Kennebec Valley Humane Society, which serves as the Town's animal shelter. For an extended KVHS wish list, visit pethavenlane.org and click on the donate button. No perishables, please.

American flags : Please do not throw American flags in the trash. Our attendants will be happy to take them from you, and we will have them disposed of in a proper, respectful manner.

– Ken Scheno, Transfer Station Director

Library Offering Curbside Service, Online Activities

The Belgrade Public Library is offering curbside pick-up and online services for patrons.

Individuals looking for new reading material can call 207-495-3508 or email belgrade@belgrade.lib.me.us with their requests in advance. Families can also request book kits for their children to continue their learning all summer long. The librarian on duty will gather the selections and prepare them for pickup on the front porch. Returns can be dropped off inside of our metal drop box in the parking lot.

The library will also continue to offer online access outside of the building for patrons with smartphones, laptops and tablets. For more information about curbside pickup and online services, visit townofbelgrade.com/library.

On July 7, the Belgrade Board of Selectpersons will consider a proposal to open the library by appointment. For updates, visit the library's page on the town's website.

Despite the challenges our community has faced this year, the library will continue to offer regular programming.

Every Sunday afternoon, we will host a new online trivia quiz. Topics will change every week, so players will get the chance to showcase their knowledge in a variety of categories. Players will have until the following Saturday to complete their trivia. The player who scores the most points across the board will win a \$5 Amazon gift card.

Other programs include a Thursday morning online story time and craft session, and an online book group meeting on the second Tuesday of every month.

Visit our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/BelgradePublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/BelgradePublicLibrary) to stay updated on our latest online programs.

– Megan Aube, Library Director

Friends of the Library Book Sale is July 4

The Friends of the Belgrade Public Library is hosting a gently used book sale from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, July 4, outside of the library, 124 Depot Road.

The sale will take place with some public health measures in place:

Customers are required to wear masks that cover their noses and mouths -- no exceptions.

No more than 30 people at a time will be allowed inside the sale area.

Shoppers will be allowed up to 30 minutes each.

Upon arrival, customers will be issued entry numbers so they can wait in their vehicles.

Customers should park along the Depot Road near the ballfields. Please do not park in front of homes.

Neither food nor toilet facilities will be available.

Should there be severe weather, the sale will be postponed until the same time on July 5.

Proceeds support the operations of the Belgrade Public Library.

For more information, call 207-649-4238.

Camp Golden Pond Kicks Off for Summer

Camp Golden Pond, the Recreation Department's summer day camp, will look different than it ever has before, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the changes: the camp will serve a limited number of children; no field trips, guest speakers or hands-on games; no swimming in the pool; mask-wearing; and lots of hand-washing. We welcome campers who will be entering kindergarten through the sixth grade in the fall.

Although this will be a different experience, we will aim to provide a summer filled with fun. That will mean children playing outside, swimming in the lake, boating, learning new games, and catching up with old friends! For more information about the precautions being taken and for registration forms, visit townofbelgrade.com/summerdaycamp.

Adult Programs

The center will continue to offer a few daily programs for adults throughout the summer.

Ping pong, outdoor Fit4Me (a fitness program) and daily outdoor yoga classes will be offered either at the Center for All Seasons or at the Belgrade Village Green. All classes require advance registration, and participants are limited to 10. All must bring their own equipment and a face covering.

To protect the public's health, the public is not allowed on the community center's grounds while camp is in session. Neither will we be renting the Center for All Seasons for public and private events this summer. However, the Belgrade Village Green and the North Belgrade Community Center are available to rent for your next gathering.

For information, visit the Recreation page at townofbelgrade.com/recreation.

– Lily Schubert, Recreation Director

Dams Report: Low Water Ahead

Well, our ponds are starting to feel the effects of another drought.

Although the Great Pond and Long Pond dams have been completely shut down for a good month now, Great Pond is down just 1" from full pond with Long Pond down 3.12" below full.

The difference is that the Wings Mill dam that holds back Long Pond is still leaking, despite the temporary repairs almost two years ago. The "permanent" repair on Wings Mill will start July 15th and, because of the very nature of the work being done, we will lose some additional water during the demolition and construction. So we'll be working with a moving target as far as Long Pond's water levels are concerned.

Bad timing in another drought (five years in a row) but a necessity.

– Dick Greenan, Secretary, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dam Committee

Fireworks Information

Belgrade does not have a fireworks ordinance, so goes by state law.

Please keep in mind:

You must have permission to use the land you set off your fireworks on.

You can only use fireworks from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. except the Fourth of July and that weekend, when they can be used until 12:30 a.m.

Please keep your neighbors, their pets and livestock in mind with the duration and time of your home fireworks shows.

For Maine's fireworks laws, visit maine.gov/dps/fmo/fireworks/regulations.



The Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays, at the 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main St. Vendors wear masks, and customers are asked to as well, and also to practice social distancing.

(Maureen Milliken photo)



Honored by the town June 14 were Cindy Kendle, accepting for the late Elisabeth "Betty" Wells; Marylou Butterfield, board president of the Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry; Hazel Labbe, the food pantry board secretary, Phyllis and Lynn Matson; and Carol Johnson.

(Rich Labbe photo)

Community volunteers honored by town

The town honored a number of community volunteers and at a public ceremony at Sunday, June 14, at the Village Green. The select boards of Belgrade and Rome recently approved a proclamation recognizing the good works of the Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry.



Fire Chief Dan MacKenzie presents Betty Wells' award.

(Rich Labbe photo)

Lynn and Phyllis Matson, who developed the Belgrade Lakes Village Green and donated it to the town.

Elisabeth "Betty" Wells, who was honored posthumously for leaving a financial gift in her will for the Belgrade Fire & Rescue Department.

The money was used to buy a rescue boat and all-terrain vehicle. Cindy Kendle accepted the award for Wells, which was presented by Fire Chief Dan MacKenzie.

The proclamation was presented to MaryLou Butterfield and Hazel Labbe, representing the food pantry. The Spirit of America Award, which were approved earlier by the Board of Selectpersons, was presented to to this year's recipients:

Carol Johnson, who was instrumental in the Village improvement project, and is the president of the Belgrade Lakes Association and as the chair of the Union Church Council.

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Library Trustees Meeting	Boards of Parks and Recreational	Transfer Station Committee Meeting	Rescue Meeting
1st Thursday @ 7:00pm	Last Monday @ 6:30pm	2nd Monday @ 7:00pm	2nd Wednesday
Selectpersons Meeting	Planning Board Meeting	Appeals Board Meeting	Road Committee Meeting
1st and 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30pm	1st and 3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm	4th Thursday @ 7:00pm	4th Wednesday @ 6:30pm

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector Gary Fuller has office hours 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Tuesday; noon-4 p.m.; Wednesday; noon-7 p.m. Thursday

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, most meetings are taking place via Zoom.

Check townofbelgrade.com for information

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