

# Belgrade Bulletin June 2021



## BELGRADE TOWN OFFICE

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Belgrade, ME 04917

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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

Melanie Jewell, chair (2022)  
Richard Damren, vice chair (2022)  
Ernst Merckens (2024)  
Daniel Newman (2023)  
Barbara Allen (2024)

## STAFF

**Town Manager**  
Anthony Wilson  
**Town Clerk**  
Mary Vogel

**Treasurer, Tax Collector**  
Nicholas Poole

**Deputy Clerk, Registrar**  
Charlene Houle

**Deputy Clerk, Deputy Registrar**  
Sheila Thorne

## Select Board Highlights March-May

For just a few months between newsletter issues, the Select Board has certainly been busy! Here are some of the highlights:

- Barbara Allen and Ernst Merckens were voted in as Select Board members
- Bids were accepted and the board approved Androscoggin Bank's low bid for the Tax Anticipation Note (rate of 1.05%).
- The road commissioner job description was updated; the job was advertised (two applicants) and Jason Stevens was appointed road commissioner. He also was interim road commissioner between Town Meeting and the official appointment. We appreciate it!
- Public hearings were held on the municipal warrant articles that will be on the June 8 referendum ballot and for testimony regarding a setback violation from 2010. (The board subsequently approved a "no action" letter be sent on behalf of the town).
- Carl Gartley, Regional School Unit 18 superintendent, gave an overview of the proposed budget, which will be voted on June 8. He answered all questions that were asked and followed up with information after the meeting that he didn't have at his fingertips.
- The Unified Investment Trust Investment Policy was updated, with assistance from the Budget Committee, and a request for qualifications was approved to solicit proposals for managing the town's Unified Investment Trust.
- Items from the Transfer Station and Recycling Committee were approved, such as expansion of the recycling program to include Terracycle collections boxes; updates to the punch card policy; changes to the interlocal agreements with Rome and Mount Vernon transfer station users (changes are limited to stickers for identifying collection bags vs. the more expensive stamped bags); brush fees increased for commercial only and a tentative bid accepted for paving the cement pad, contingent on voter approval.
- Annual appointments to town positions were made, including code enforcement officer, animal control officer, town clerk, town treasurer, public information officer, town historian, etc.
- The moratorium approved in November for solar, wind and cell tower applications was extended for an additional 180 days to give the Planning Board a bit more time to finish updates to the Subdivision Ordinance and amendments to the Commercial Development Review Ordinance.
- The public comment portion of the meetings brought several issues to the Select Board's attention. One was consideration of buying new appliances for a homeowner adversely affected by the salt well contamination (this was approved at a later date and the cost will be shared with Maine DOT); how to have the speed limit changed on a town road was discussed, and the procedure will be considered by the complainant; a review of the

**Continued, Page 2**

# Town Manager's Report

When you vote on the RSU 18 budget June 8, you'll also get a town ballot with three questions.

Question 1 seeks authorization to spend \$25,000 from the town's undesignated fund to build a cement pad beneath the transfer station's storage containers. This would be done later this month in conjunction with some paving at the center. The undesignated fund is money that was collected and has not yet been spent. Think of it as the town's savings account. As of our audit on Dec. 31, Belgrade's fund balance was a healthy \$3.5 million-plus.

Additionally, to ensure the transfer station has a healthy capital reserve to address emergencies (for instance, a hopper break-down), we are asking that \$33,874 be moved from the undesignated fund to the transfer station's capital reserve. This would raise that account's balance to \$50,000 following the paving. So, in total, that would be \$58,874 from the undesignated fund.

Question 2 seeks authorization to spend \$45,000 from the undesignated fund to buy a badly needed replacement for our one-ton maintenance truck. That would complement \$30,000 in a reserve account earmarked for that purchase. We meant to make this purchase last year, but delayed it because of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

Question 3 is a housekeeping matter to allow us to collect property taxes before the tax rate is set in July. This had been a perpetuity article until we were advised that, legally, voters must approve this annually. Frankly, the change slipped beneath our radar before March's Town Meeting.

Please contact me with questions about any of these items.

We are optimistic about our mil rate, which has been at 15.38 the last two years, despite increases in Belgrade's contribution to the proposed budgets of RSU 18 (nearly 2 percent) and the county (nearly 9 percent). Municipal government expenses are flat, and property values are rising because of the hot real estate market. Also, the governor has proposed increasing the state's contribution to education expenses to the maximum 55 percent allowed by law and raising from 3.75 percent to 4.5 percent the share of state income and sales taxes that towns get. And there is a proposal in the Legislature to reimburse towns 100 percent of revenue lost to homestead exemptions, up from 70 percent. Each of those moves would shift some of the burden of funding local government from local taxpayers to the state.

— Anthony Wilson, Town Manager, 207-495-2258, [townmanager@townofbelgrade.com](mailto:townmanager@townofbelgrade.com)

## Highlights, continued

town's legal budget expenditures was requested.

- 16% of Belgrade's registered voters voted on the Town Meeting warrant, but your job is not done. We need your voice on June 8 as well! Voting will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Road.
- A multitude of first-time appointments and many re-appointments to town committees and boards were approved. We appreciate the residents who volunteer, ensuring the success of our community. If you are interested in serving (see committee openings article on Page 3), an application is available at [www.townofbelgrade.com](http://www.townofbelgrade.com) or you can get a paper copy at the Town Office. We would welcome your input no matter how you choose to join us!

— Melanie Jewell, Select Board Chair

[Correction from March issue — changes to the sidewalk maintenance agreement must be approved by town voters]

## What Is the Role of the Select Board?

The Select Board has various jobs, but one of its major roles is budgeting. Before town meeting, the board, along with the budget committee and town departments, develops a budget that will be presented to voters at Town Meeting. Once voters approve budget articles, expenditures are presented to the board for approval at its regular meetings. The board also considers additional spending for unforeseen items.

"The board has to address things as they arise," Chair Melanie Jewell said. The board, along with the tax assessor, sets the tax rate by what's required in the budget and also making sure the town has enough money for emergencies, Jewell said.

Board members hire and supervise the town manager, and serve on hiring committees for other staff positions. Establishment of and appointment to committees is also the board's responsibility. The board may enter into executive session at meetings to discuss confidential information, such as personnel and legal issues.

The board does not decide the budget for Belgrade's share of the budgets for Kennebec County or the RSU 18 School District.

As chair, Jewell sets the agenda and runs the meetings. The public can contact the town manager to request that an item be added to the agenda. At the beginning of each meeting, the public may bring issues to the board that are not on the agenda. This can be a time for residents to make comments, or ask questions about the board's actions or decisions, Jewell said.

## How to Attend a Select Board meeting

Select Board meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. They are open to all members of the public. The link to the Zoom meeting can be found on the town website, as well as the agenda and minutes from the meetings. The public can request that the agenda and minutes be sent to them by email by selecting the "notify me" button on the town website.

## Town COVID-19 Rules

The town has adopted the state's COVID restriction guidelines, which allow fully vaccinated people to not wear face coverings indoors. The CDC defines fully vaccinated as two weeks after a Johnson & Johnson immunization or second Pfizer or Moderna shot. The state has also lifted indoor physical distancing requirements.

We want everyone on town property – residents and staff – to always feel safe. If you feel most comfortable wearing a mask, please continue to do so. If you would like an unmasked town employee to wear a mask indoors, you may ask them to. The staff has been asked to be respectful of such requests.

Likewise, if town employees don't feel comfortable meeting with an unmasked individual, they are encouraged to respectfully ask the person to wear one, which the town office is happy to provide. If someone declines, the employee may ask:

- To help the person outside — research has shown outdoor infection rates are less than 1 percent.
- To help them in a space where physical distancing is possible, such as the Town Office board room or rec center gym.
- To meet with a Plexiglass shield between them, at the Town Office counter or the library circulation desk.

At the rec center and library children's events, RSU 18's rules are followed. Indoors, everyone masks up, including vaccinated adults. Outdoors, masks can come off. The town is mindful that children younger than 12 aren't yet eligible for vaccinations.

The town remains acutely aware the pandemic is not over, and a real risk remains for many, particularly those who haven't been vaccinated or are immune-compromised. The town remains committed to providing services in the safest way possible. With your help, no infections have been traced to town operations. We greatly appreciate your patience and cooperation over what has been an unprecedented 15 months, and ask for continued consideration of your neighbors.

— *Anthony Wilson, Town Manager*

## Town Clerk's Report

The town will conduct a municipal and annual regional school unit budget validation election on Tuesday, June 8. The election will be at the Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive, which is off Route 27, just south of the village. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Three questions are on the town warrant. They are primarily housekeeping articles that were not included in the annual Town Meeting in March (see the Town Manager's Report for more information). The referendum questions and school referendum can be viewed at [townofbelgrade.com/voting](http://townofbelgrade.com/voting).

Absentee ballots are available through Thursday, June 3. For an application to receive a ballot, call the Town Office at 207-495-2258, stop by the office at 990 Augusta Road or email [townclerk@townofbelgrade.com](mailto:townclerk@townofbelgrade.com).

Residents may also vote in advance in the Town Office.

Residents must be registered in order to vote. You may come to the Town Office to register or register at the polls on Election Day. Those registering must bring a Maine driver's license with a current physical address or a photo ID. If you do not have either with a current address, you may also bring a piece of mail — a utility bill, a phone bill, a copy of a lease or a rental agreement — or something that shows a current address. You may also swear an oath of residency.

### Vehicle & Boat Registration

An increasing number of people are registering boats, trailers and vehicles. As a reminder, please bring your registration, proof of insurance (if applicable) and current mileage in order to register. The town staff does not mind looking up registrations, but bringing these items will assist us in finding the correct vehicle or boat, and expediting registrations

— *Mary Vogel, Town Clerk, 207-495-2258, [townclerk@townofbelgrade.com](mailto:townclerk@townofbelgrade.com)*



The new tanker truck arrived at the Belgrade Fire & Rescue Dept. in April. Voters approved buying the truck in 2019, but the pandemic delayed its manufacturing.

(Town of Belgrade Facebook photo)

## Town Committee Openings

The town has openings on two of its committees: the Board of Assessment Review and the Board of Parks & Recreation.

The Board of Assessment Review hears appeals of property assessments. It meets on an as-needed basis and consists of three members with staggered three-year terms, along with one alternate.

The Board of Parks & Recreation advises the Selectboard on matters related to the town's parks and its recreation programming. The 10-member committee, which meets monthly, also provides input to the town's recreation director. Committee members serve staggered three-year terms.

To apply to serve on a board or committee, visit [townofbelgrade.com/boardapplication](http://townofbelgrade.com/boardapplication) or the Town Office, 990 Augusta Road. It's open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays and until 7 p.m. Thursday. For information, call 207-495-2258.

## March Town Meeting Vote Results

Of the town's nearly 2,900 registered voters, 459 cast ballots in the Town Meeting election March 20, which was held by secret ballot, rather than an in-person town meeting. Of those who voted, 308 cast absentee ballots.

Results:

Article 3 (Sexual Assault Crisis Center): 380-74

Article 4 (Literacy Volunteers Waterville Area): 361-92

Article 5 (lake protection): 376-77

Article 6 (Spectrum Generations): 381-71

Article 7 (Hospice Volunteers Waterville Area): 398-54

Article 8 (mooring ordinance): 237-197

Article 9 (first quarter 2022 spending): 392-53

Article 10 (tax due date and penalty interest): 391-53

Article 11 (non property tax revenue): 433-16

Article 12 (administration budget): 388-57

Article 13 (public safety budget): 411-37

Article 14 (public works budget): 412-35

Article 15 (cemeteries budget): 392-55

Article 16 (facilities and grounds maintenance budget): 384-59

Article 17 (solid waste budget): 392-54

Article 18 (library budget): 306-132

Article 19 (plowing/mowing contract with Friends of the Library): 353-78

Article 20 (recreation budget): 317-121

Article 21 (social services budget): 363-77

Article 22 (dams budget): 415-25

Article 23 (capital reserves budget): 391-49

Article 24 (trust revenues for schools and cemetery): 413-36

Article 25 (contingency article if an article failed): 392-56

Article 26 (perpetuity article repeal): 384-62

Article 27 (perpetuity article regarding insurance claims): 378-57

Article 28 (perpetuity article regarding recreation and library capital reserves): 384-63

Article 29 (perpetuity article repeal): 363-80

## Election

Select Board, two open seats:

Barbara Allen, 285 votes; Ernie Merckens, 284; Cory Alexander, 196

## Transfer Station & Recycling Center

The transfer station is offering a new recycling program. Terracycle is funded by brands, manufacturers and retailers. Bring products from a sponsored category to recycle. For every pound of waste collected, Terracycle contributes to a cause of our choice. Sponsored categories are:

Burt's Bees – any Burt's Bees used products and packaging.

Popsockets – all used Popsockets products and any brand of used phone cases.

Bic – any brand of used office stationery (pens, glue sticks, etc.).

Gillette – any brand of used razors, blades and packaging.

Readfield is inviting Belgrade residents to participate in its July 11 household hazardous waste event. Registration will be in late June at the Belgrade Town Office.

The transfer station is selling high-quality totes in five colors made 100 percent from recycled materials, for \$5 each. The totes will help users color code recyclables: one for glass, one for plastics, etc. Buy bags at the transfer station; Town Office; Hello, Good Pie, 39 Main St.; and Belgrade Public Library, 124 Depot Road. (See what they look like on Page 6!)

The transfer station is open noon-5 p.m. Thursday for the summer and early fall. Its other hours are 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

Later this month, the infrastructure upgrades will begin. Please be patient and careful driving through the site. The inconvenience should last a few weeks.

New punch cards for bulk item disposal are available at the Town Office. The green cards replace the pink cards that expired in March.

Tattered American flags can be brought to the transfer station; we'll see they are disposed of properly.

Unwanted pet products, food, toys and litter can be donated to the Kennebec Valley Humane Society at the transfer station. See an attendant.

— *Ken Scheno, Transfer Station and Recycling Center Director, 207-495-3326, transferstation@townofbelgrade.com*

## Belgrade Fire & Rescue

The Belgrade Fire & Rescue Department typically sees a rise in calls on private camp roads each summer. Many camp roads are difficult for firetrucks to navigate. Bad road conditions not only hamper responses, they can also damage equipment.

Property owners and road associations should consider this when managing their roads, many of which are overgrown. Clearing camp roads of tree limbs and vegetation is vital; it allows us to efficiently respond during time-sensitive emergencies.

Posted addresses on residences or the road line if the dwelling is more than 50 feet from the right-of-way's edge also help response time. Per the town's addressing ordinance, numbers should be at least 3 inches tall, plainly visible in contrasting colors and preferably reflective.

**Burn permits** are required for outdoor burning when snow is no longer on the ground. The only exception is residential use of an appropriate outdoor grill or a fire-place for recreational purposes. Even then, we appreciate people getting burn permits for outdoor fireplaces; this notifies fire wardens where fires are occurring should we get a call for a smoke investigation. Only brush or clean untreated wood can be burned. All fires, including permitted ones, must be extinguished by midnight. We are often called to a fire that reignites and was not fully extinguished.

On "red flag" days, as determined by the National Weather Service, all open burning, including in fireplaces, is banned. To get a fire permits, visit [townofbelgrade.com/burnpermits](http://townofbelgrade.com/burnpermits). This is a free service. Permits are not available until after 9 a.m. each day to allow an assessment of wind and fire danger conditions.

— *Travis Burton, Rescue Chief, rescuechief@townofbelgrade.com, 207-495-7739*



New playground equipment was recently installed at the North Belgrade Community Center.

(Town of Belgrade Facebook photo)

## Parks & Recreation Dept.

The Parks & Recreation Department is ready for a busy summer. Here are some great things to look forward to:

**Craft shows:** We are hosting craft shows at the Village Green. The shows will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the last Sunday of the month from May to September, with an additional show Saturday, Oct. 9.

**Early morning paddle:** Morning paddles on Great Pond are at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive, off Route 27, just south of the village. Canoes, kayaks and paddleboards will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. No fee is involved.

**Yoga:** Yoga sessions are from 6-7 p.m. Thursday at the Center for All Seasons, on the back porch. Classes are \$10 to drop in or \$50 for six weeks.

**Camp Golden Pond:** We are ready to welcome back campers entering kindergarten through the eighth grade for a summer filled with fun. Children who attend will spend their time playing outside, swimming, boating, learning new games and catching up with old friends. Our masking rules during kids' programming mirror those of RSU 18 – masks are not required outside; inside, campers and adults must wear masks, regardless of whether they have been vaccinated.

Also returning this summer is the Counselor In Training Program. This is a volunteer program for teenagers looking to gain work experience or community service hours.

**Music Series:** We will host a 10-week music series on the Belgrade Village Green, featuring a wide variety of performers that will appeal to all. Music will be from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays from July 1 until Sept. 2.

For more information, visit [townofbelgrade.com/recreation](http://townofbelgrade.com/recreation).

— Lily Schubert, Recreation Director, [recreation@townofbelgrade.com](mailto:recreation@townofbelgrade.com), 207-495-3481

## Belgrade Public Library

The Belgrade Public Library, with 7 Lakes Alliance and the Belgrade Historical Society, is hosting a Community Read, which began in April.

The read features Pulitzer Prize-winning novel “The Overstory” by Richard Powers. We have a series of exciting programs lined up, including live animal presentations, a variety of guest speakers and an author talk with Powers

To see an updated calendar of events, visit the library website at [townofbelgrade.com/library](http://townofbelgrade.com/library) or find the Belgrade Public Library on Facebook, where we post frequent event updates. Those who want to join in can reserve a copy of “The Overstory” at the library or buy it at Oliver & Friends Bookshop, 87 Main St., where they’ll get a 25 percent discount.

The library is also running an animal-themed summer reading program, Tales & Tails, beginning June 19. Children can sign up at the library to collect their first prize and a reading log. Readers have until Aug. 14 to turn in their reading logs to earn additional prizes, ranging from bookmarks and pins to stickers and toys.

Another exciting development at the library is the new indoor book sale. Thanks to the support of the Friends of the Belgrade Public Library and the many book donations from patrons, the library can now run a book sale inside during open hours. There are a variety of hardcover, paperback and children’s books available. The inventory is always changing, so be sure to check it out during every visit. All proceeds directly benefit the Friends, supporting their efforts in maintaining the library building year-round.

The library, 124 Depot Road, is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursdays, 2-6 p.m. Wednesday and Fridays, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

— Megan Aube, Library Director, 207-495-3508, [librarydirector@townofbelgrade.com](mailto:librarydirector@townofbelgrade.com)



The Belgrade Public Library was honored with a Spirit of America Award for continuing to offer library services throughout most of the pandemic. Accepting the award are, from left, library trustees Barbara Allen, Dianne Dowd and Kate Gawler. Back row, trustees Maureen Milliken and Brent Chisholm, Library Director Megan Aube, Town Manager Anthony Wilson and library trustee Wendy Dyer. Not pictured are assistant librarians Jared Bond and Debra Baiberchak, and trustees Leilani Carlson, Stacy Whitcomb-Smith, Katherine Tagtmeier, Charlotte Saxl, and former trustees (through 2020) Duane Farnham and Grace Stocco.

# A Newcomer's View: Enjoy Life

By Patty VonInderstine

My husband, Richard, and I moved to Maine a few months before the world was shuttered by COVID-19. We were blessed to partake of a few town experiences, like the Winter Stroll and tree lighting, dining out, grabbing burgers or ice cream, exploring local shops and beautiful scenery.

Richard grew up in Maine and we often considered moving back after our kids were grown.

We have lived in small towns, in California, the Midwest and rural Canada.

We're familiar with the challenges of breaking into the culture and life of a small town when you're a flatlander.

But not so here in Belgrade.

We have found folks to be as welcoming and helpful as the town is picturesque.

With each interaction with townspeople of Belgrade one thing stands out — a common comment at the end of the conversations, “enjoy life in Belgrade, it's full of great things to do.”

As we met neighbors — year round and summer residents, as well as local business people — the common theme continued.

One example was when we updated our driveway. Questions came up as to why we moved to Belgrade. The conversation ended



Maureen Milliken photo

with the reminder “enjoy your life in Belgrade, you'll love it.”

We've observed a community working together to continue to interact during this pandemic to support the life we all value.

The town government of Belgrade shifted interactions to virtual or masked social distancing.

People supported our local businesses by ordering takeout, placing orders to go, offering and obtaining COVID vaccines, and changing how we use the library and donate to food shelves. We watched teachers and schools manage various educational methods to support our children's needs.

We see the community supporting one another in business and in life as we “enjoy life” together, no matter the circumstances.

## Food Pantry COVID rules

The Belgrade/Rome Special Needs Food Pantry has adopted the state's latest COVID guidelines.

Those visiting the pantry, in the North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield Road (Route 8), can enter the building and place orders, as they did before the pandemic. Masks are recommended, not required.

(See Page 3 for further details on the town's COVID-19 rules)

The pantry is open 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Tuesday, and those using the pantry may come every other week.

## Transfer Station Recycling Totes



Recycle in style with the new totes available for \$5 at the transfer station, as well as other locations around town. For more information, check out the Transfer Station & Recycling Center report on Page 4.

## Summer Recipe: Grilled Corn Salsa

Belgrade Communications Committee member Brian Beaupain, a chef, offers this recipe, a great side for any summer cookout, picnic or rainy-day indoors meal.

- 2 large ears of corn
- ¼ large red onion (finely diced)
- 2 tomatoes (small dice)
- 1 jalapeno pepper (seeded and finely diced)
- Juice of one medium lime
- ¼ cup fresh cilantro(chopped)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Leave the husk on the corn and grill until very charred. Remove the husk and return corn to the grill for a little color on the kernels, rolling as you grill.

Once grilled, cut the corn off the cob and add to a bowl with the remaining ingredients.

Taste and adjust seasoning if needed, adding more lime juice, salt, or pepper.

Serve immediately.

This salsa will keep in the fridge for a couple days.

It's extremely versatile. You can use it as a topper for a steak, burger or add it to your hot dog. You can use it as a stand-alone salsa/dip or eat it as a salad. Add avocado, black beans, or switch the tomatoes out for tri-color grape tomatoes for added colors and flavor.

It's also gluten free and vegan friendly, so it accommodates almost anyone. Bring this to your next BBQ and you will not disappoint. Have a great summer and happy grilling!

— Brian Beaupain is executive chef at Thomas College during the school year and, in the summer, chef at Camp Androscoggin, where he just started his 14th summer.

## 7 Lakes Alliance News

By Laure Rose-Day

As summer approaches, work to restore and protect the lakes and land that support local traditions and economy are in high gear.

To remove and prevent the spread of milfoil, 7 Lakes Alliance's milfoil crews are already removing invasive plants from North Bay in Great Pond. 7 Lakes' courtesy boat Inspectors likely will perform more than 10,000 inspections this season. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the town of Belgrade, the Belgrade Lakes Association, and many residents support these programs.

Another priority is keeping dirt and the phosphorus pollution it carries out of the lakes. Phosphorus feeds algae, which in excess can turn lakes green, which occurred on North Pond last summer, and potentially toxic.

DEP has approved the 10-year Great Pond Watershed Management Plan, which is based on input from the towns, state and public. It recommends what's needed to restore and protect the lake. Plans for Long Pond protection are also developing.

To be part of the solution, support erosion control programs, including the Youth Conservation Corps, LakeSmart and larger projects through the state-administered federal Clean Water Act.

Continuous monitoring drives the success of water quality protection. The 7 Lakes Alliance-Colby College Water Quality Initiative works with student

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Belgrade Central School has a beautiful new mural painted by artist and Belgrade Central School art teacher Luanne Wrenn. (Regina Coppens photo)

## RSU 18 Superintendent's Report

On May 20, Regional School Unit 18's 2021-22 budget of \$40,492,119 was approved by at the District Budget Meeting.

On June 8, voters in the district's five towns, including Belgrade, will have an opportunity to give final approval to the budget. The district also includes China, Oakland, Sidney and Rome.

My thanks to everyone for the great feedback we received in the budget process. Parents, students, board members, staff, town officials and residents gave us feedback on what they wanted to see in a budget. Of course, people did not always agree. But what they did agree on is the schools in our district need to continue to provide students with the excellent education our community is accustomed to, and to continue to keep students safe, in school and engaged in learning.

We (and that is all of us) are proud of how our schools and communities have handled education during the last year. Everyone has gone above and beyond to ensure our schools were open, and our students and

staff were taken care of.

The district budget for 2021-22 has an increase in spending of a modest 1.71 percent. Almost all of this increase is a result of contractual salary obligations.

Minimum wage has gone up fast the last couple of years, and there are laws that dictate minimum salaries for teaching staff. It is important to fairly compensate our staff, and they are definitely not overpaid. They work incredibly hard and care deeply for their students.

It is the job of the RSU 18 School Board to present a budget to the voters that takes care of the educational needs of our students. They have done this, and they have presented a budget that is fiscally responsible.

I ask for your support of the 2021-22 RSU 18 school budget when you go to the polls June 8.

(For information on the June 8 election, go to Page 3 and [townofbelgrade.org](http://townofbelgrade.org))

— Carl Gartley, Superintendent of Schools, [cgartley@rsu18.org](mailto:cgartley@rsu18.org), 207-465-7384

## Belgrade Inter-Lakes Dams Committee Report

By Dick Greenan

As I write this update, all of our ponds are finally full or above, and far better than at any time in the past five years. As a result, Long Pond is 4 inches above full pond, Great Pond is right exactly at full and Salmon is at 3.5 inches above full.

With another summer of drought (this will be six years running), the Dams Committee is trying to begin the summer with

all of our lakes 3 inches or so above full pond. The benefit is that the additional 3 inches will give us a little more water to enjoy, yet should not affect any of the natural loon nesting sites or float off any one's dock.

Phase II of the two-year Wings Mill Dam remediation project is scheduled to commence in July. Waterville-based Kavestone, LLC Construction Co. will install their state-of-the-art 100-by-30 foot rubber

and nylon reinforced coffer dam, which is essentially a large water bag that weighs 2,500 pounds dry. It will once again require the Central Maine Crane Co. to install.

Phase II involves replacing most of the lumber in the walkway to and including the caged gate area. This project has been a huge success, and when completed this summer, will remediate 95 percent of the leakage through the dam.

## Upcoming Events in Belgrade

June 27, July 25, Aug. 29, Sept. 26 — Craft Show, Village Green, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

June 11 – Nature photography webinar, with Alex Wall, hosted by Belgrade Public Library, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, call the library at 207-495-3508 to register, or email the library at [library@townofbelgrade.com](mailto:library@townofbelgrade.com)

June 12 – Friends of the Belgrade Public Library yard sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Day's Real Estate, Route 27.

June 16 – Belgrade Historical Society virtual program on Maine's Big Trees, presented by Jan Santerre, part of Community Read, 6:30 p.m. Santerre will talk about the champion trees of Maine and those located in the area. Online, registration info soon at [belgradehistoricalsociety.org](http://belgradehistoricalsociety.org).

June 24 -- Chewonki, Owls of Maine, 3 p.m. Village Green gazebo, part of Community Read, free, open to the public.

June 26 -- Tour of new trail, 10 a.m., the

### 4th of July Returns!

The 4th of July fireworks, sponsored by the Belgrade Lakes Business Group, and boat parade are back this year. As of now, no street parade is planned.

Mountain trail head, Mountain Drive, Rome, sponsored by 7 Lakes Alliance, part of Belgrade Community Read, free, open to the public.

June 30 – Belgrade Historical Society hosts virtual program about Elizabeth Arden's Maine Chance Spa (now Travis Mills Retreat), presented by Lisa Walker of UMA, at 7 p.m. Registration info available soon at [belgradehistoricalsociety.org](http://belgradehistoricalsociety.org).

July 3-5 – Story Stroll, Belgrade Regional

Health Center trail.

July 13 -- Book discussion, 10:30 a.m., "The Overstory," by Richard Powers, Belgrade Public Library and/or Zoom, part of Belgrade Community Read, free, open to the public.

July 28 -- Mr. Drew and His Animals Too, with the theme "Animals and Trees," 3 p.m. Belgrade Public Library, part of Belgrade Community Read, free, open to the public.

Aug. 4. -- Book discussion 6:30 p.m. "The Overstory," by Richard Powers, Belgrade Public Library and/or Zoom, part of Belgrade Community Read, free, open to the public.

Aug. 26 – Richard Powers, author of "The Overstory," author talk, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, call the library at 207-495-3508 to register, or email the library at [lrary@townofbelgrade.com](mailto:lrary@townofbelgrade.com).

## Community Read Includes Public Art Project

The Community Read will include a community-wide public art project, open to all ages. The aim is to have a public art exhibition throughout town. Submissions should embody the beauty and wonder of nature, with a focus on trees. All qualifying submissions will be entered into a drawing to win a gift certificate from a

local business.

Submitted art can include paintings and drawings, embroidery, quilting, poems, short stories, photographs and small sculptures.

Guidelines are:

Paintings, drawings and photographs must be between 3-by-5 inches and 11-by-14 inches.

Quilting and embroidery

must be between 5-by-7 inches and 16-by-20 inches.

Poems and short stories can be no longer than two pages long.

Sculptures can be no larger than a cubic foot.

Submission deadline is July 15, and may be dropped off at the library or sent to [library@townofbelgrade.com](mailto:library@townofbelgrade.com).



Sharon Mann (in water) and Megan Aubrey, 7 Lakes Alliance Milfoil removal crew, test equipment as the 2021 field season begins. A full crate of milfoil – one of many – can be seen in the upper right. (Erin O'Leary photo)

### 7 Lakes Report, continued

interns, volunteers, lake associations and governments to provide critical scientific support. The data collection and analysis, including new instrumentation at 7 Lakes, informs solutions to growing threats to lake health. For more information, visit [7lakesalliance.org](http://7lakesalliance.org). Belgrade's Lakes Committee also provides updates, available on the town website.

— *Laura Rose Day is president and CEO of 7 Lakes Alliance.*

The Belgrade Historical Society will join 7 Lakes Alliance to present some programs related to Maine's Bicentennial, postponed from last year.

The historical society will also be in attendance at the Belgrade Lakes Craft Fairs this summer with mini exhibits about the Belgrade Historical Society collection of artifacts. The first exhibit about antique kitchenware was held May 30, at the first of the craft fair series, and was lots of fun.

The society also plans an open house sometime this summer, as renovations at The Old Town House, on Cemetery Road, continue. A paint job over the new clapboard siding was recently wrapped up and interior work is ex-

pected to begin soon.

The building, at the edge of Woodside Cemetery, was built in 1814 where town meetings were held for many years.

The building was placed on Maine Preservation's Most Endangered Historic Places list in 2019, and a fundraising campaign kicked off shortly after which is ongoing.

The building will house the Belgrade Historical Society's collections once the work is done.

The BHS is also adding to its collection of videos on its YouTube channel, which can be accessed through the BHS website, [belgrade-historical-society.org](http://belgrade-historical-society.org).

— *Dianne Dowd, BHS president*

## Belgrade Historical Society



# Belgrade Remembers: Memorial Day



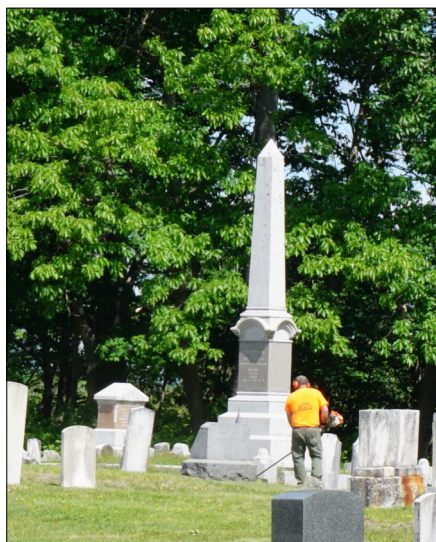
The veterans memorial on Main Street in the Village. It has the names of all town residents who served in the armed forces through 1972. (Maureen Milliken photo)



Maj. Ian Hepburn, above, who's retired from the U.S. Army and Army National Guard, spoke at Belgrade's Memorial Day commemoration May 31, which was held indoors at Belgrade Central School because of rain. Below, members of Girl Scout Troop 1236 raise the colors.

Belgrade Town Sexton Chris Dutil (above) and Assistant Town Sexton Andrew Davidson (right) tidy up Pine Grove and Woodside cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day.

(Regina Coppens photos)



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Hammond Lumber is generously sponsoring the Belgrade Bulletin to support the cost of mailing it to all residents during the COVID-19 crisis.

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1st Thursday @ 7 p.m.	4th Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.	2nd Monday @ 7 p.m.	2nd Wednesday
<b>Selectpersons</b>	<b>Planning Board</b>	<b>Appeals Board</b>	<b>Road Committee</b>
1st and 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.	1st and 3rd Thursday @ 7 p.m.	4th Wednesday @ 7 pm	4th Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.

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

**Check [townofbelgrade.com](http://townofbelgrade.com) for information on meetings and for other information.**

**Click “Notify Me” to get updates on town news and committee information**

The Belgrade Bulletin is published quarterly by the Belgrade Communications Committee, which meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

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