

Belgrade Bulletin October 2021



BELGRADE TOWN OFFICE

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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)
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
Deb Nichols

Town mourns loss of CEO Gary Fuller

The town is mourning the loss of Gary Fuller, a faithful public servant who for 30 years served as code enforcement officer. Gary died Sept. 18. He was 58, and the longest-serving town employee in Belgrade's history.

As code enforcement officer, Gary approached his duties with respect for all, empathy and a ready willingness to help others. In serving his hometown, Gary drew from a deep well of professional experience. He began his career as a code enforcement officer in 1986 with the city of Augusta. He retired from that job in 2018, after 32 years. During most of that span, he also



worked part-time as the code enforcement officer and local plumbing inspector not just for Belgrade, but also for

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Select Board highlights June-September

- Bids were considered for the purchase of a one-ton truck, previously approved by the voters, and the bid was awarded to Hight Chevrolet Buick GMC.
- The Investment Management Services Contract was awarded for another year to Bar Harbor Bank and Trust by the Budget Committee, after careful consideration of several choices.
- A policy governing remote meetings was discussed and finalized, pursuant to state of Maine guidelines and after a public hearing was held. An audio-visual recording aid, a Meeting Owl, was approved for purchase as were two large screen TVs, which will be used to facilitate a hybrid meeting model. [For more information, see story Page 7]
- A town resident request to have no parking zones on either side of the family's driveway in the village was discussed. A policy was adopted regarding this, and a handful of other village residents opted to do the same. The proper-

Continued page 2

Gary Fuller, continued

the town of Sidney.

As evidenced by the comments on the town's Facebook page following his death, Gary was highly regarded not just for his years of experience, but for his good cheer, his helpfulness (especially with people perplexed by the permitting process) and his earnest decency. Even someone who met him only once commented that Gary was "a gracious, kind man. ... I was pleased to know someone of his caliber served the town."

Per his wishes, there will be no funeral service. However, a celebration of his life is planned for noon Sunday, Oct. 10, at the Augusta Elks Lodge, 397 Civic Center Drive. His many friends are invited. Keep his wife Ellen and the entire Fuller family in your thoughts and prayers as they grieve the loss of Gary.

Oakland Code Enforcement Officer Dave Savage is issuing permits and conducting inspections as the town considers how best to deliver code enforcement services. Permit applications are available at the Town Office.

The office will also facilitate scheduling inspections.

Those with pending applications are encouraged to contact Town Manager Anthony Wilson at 207-495-2258 or townmanager@townofbelgrade.com.

Select Board highlights, continued

ty owners paid for the striping.

- 2021 tax commitment was discussed, with the tax assessor available to answer questions. After consideration of three scenarios, the rate was set, for the third year in a row, at 15.38.
- The date for the seasonal residents meeting was set for Aug. 10.
- A seat on the select board was vacated; the board voted to approve a shortened nomination process to fill the vacant seat. The seat will be voted upon on Nov. 2 so remember to cast your vote!
- One of Belgrade's RSU18 School Board members moved out of the district, so was no longer qualified to serve. Per Maine statute, the select board has the authority to fill the vacant seat. Three candidates vied for the position; Heather DiGirolamo was chosen as a representative for the seven months remaining in the term. [Her profile is on page 6.]
- The purchase of a pre-fab structure to be used as the Transfer Station office was discussed and approved, along with improvements such as the installation of windows, heat and electricity.
- The board began discussing pros and cons of transitioning to a July 1 fiscal year. No decision has been made.
- Several residents have expressed concern to the board about vehicles speeding through the village. One resident asked about the feasibility of a digital speed limit sign added, and the speed lowered. There were several discussions at subsequent meetings, including input from the Maine Department of Transportation, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine and residents, with several options proposed. Speed sign data from the town's speed sign will be correlated and reviewed by the board before any decisions are made.
- It was decided the code enforcement officer position will include that of harbormaster, and the gift of a 12 foot aluminum boat and motor was accepted for use by the harbormaster.
- The First Responders Memorial Group and the Senior Resources Committee presented their progress. The Senior Resources Committee is accepting members, if you'd like to participate.
- The board discussed trying a fixed-fee contract for legal services routinely requiring legal input. Legal costs have been rising and this may be a way to lower that cost in the future.
- Planning Board members and KVCOG attended to discuss the proposed Subdivision Ordinance rewrite. Concerns and suggestions were heard and the Planning Board will bring this item back for future review.
- COVID policy was reviewed with the town's new health officer, Jennifer Clements, and guidelines approved.
- The Comprehensive Plan Committee presented its annual update. There are a few areas that the town needs to work on, like more information and data from code enforcement, but overall the report was encouraging.
- Multiple appointments and re-appointments to committees were approved, as were a handful of resignations.
- We are always thankful to the volunteers who serve on these committees and welcome new members when seats become available. Visit townofbelgrade.com or the Town Office to see what might be a good fit for you!

— Melanie Jewell, Chair, Board of Selectpersons

Town manager's report

Free government money doesn't exist. Strings are always attached.

So it is with the \$332,564 in federal COVID-19 relief funds Belgrade is slated to receive. (We may get more funding from Kennebec County, which plans to give to towns much of the \$23 million it receives.) Most of the funding's seven eligible uses apply to metropolitan governments that provide public health services, economic development, social services, and water and sewer utilities. One qualifying infrastructure use Belgrade could tap into relates to stormwater. Funding might be used toward dams and infrastructure that diverts runoff from the lakes or improves the quality of runoff into the lakes.

However, if Belgrade can prove a revenue loss in 2020, we can use the money however we wish. Incredibly, almost all receipts increased last year. But the revenue experience is to be measured against a projection that factors in growth trends. When the growth formula is applied, Belgrade's projected revenue appears to have fallen short by more than \$332,000.

We're double-checking the math, but if that is the case, we could consider spending the COVID-19 money on any number of needs, including a new fire station, road construction or costs associated with a proposed public water system.

However Belgrade spends the money, ideas will have to compete against one another – after loads of public input. Eventually, voters will decide how it will be spent.

The money must be appropriated by Dec. 31, 2024, and spent by Dec. 31, 2026. We're eager to hear your ideas about how this money can best serve our community.

-- Anthony Wilson, Town Manager, 207-495-2258, townmanager@townofbelgrade.com

Town clerk's report

Dog registrations for 2022 will be available beginning Oct. 15.

Those registering a dog must bring in the most recent rabies vaccine certificate. If registering a new dog, proof of spay or neutering should also be submitted. The fee is \$6 for spayed/neutered, \$11 for others. To register online, visit townofbelgrade.com/online-services.

If your dog has died, contact the Town Office so it can be removed from our records.

New this year is a dog basket drawing for early registrations.

This year, town clerks have been paying \$2 to be able to wear jeans. This fundraising has permit-

ted us to buy dog-friendly treats and toys for a special dog basket. The name of each dog owner who registers their dog before Jan. 1 will go into a drawing for the dog basket.

Don't forget, the town has online registration for:

ATV/snowmobile registration renewal, Dog license renewal, Motor vehicle re-registration. Check the town website at townofbelgrade.com for the links.

– Mary Vogel, Town Clerk, 207-495-2258, townclerk@townofbelgrade.com

November election

Belgrade residents who want to register to vote can visit townofbelgrade.com/online-services and submit the completed form via mail to the Town Office, register in person at the Town Office, or register on Election Day. Proof of identity and residency are required.

The Absentee Ballot Request Service for the election at townofbelgrade.com/online-services. Registered voters can request their ballots via mail or from the Town Office directly by calling or filling out an absentee ballot request form.

Voters can also vote absentee in person by Thursday, Oct. 28.

Absentee ballots will be available on Monday, Oct. 4. The Town Office, at 990 Augusta Road, will be open every day for absentee voting from 8 a.m. to 4:30 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

Regular voting will be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, at the Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive.

— Mary Vogel, Town Clerk

The Nov. 2 ballot

The state referendum questions are:

Question 1 – Citizen Initiative: Do you want to ban the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines in the Upper Kennebec Region and to require the Legislature to approve all other such projects anywhere in Maine, both retroactively to 2020, and to require the Legislature, retroactively to 2014, to approve by a two-thirds vote such projects using public land?

Question 2 – Bond Issue: Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue to build or improve roads, bridges, railroads, airports, transit facilities and ports and make other transportation investments, to be used to leverage an estimated \$253,000,000 in federal and other funds?

Question 3 – Constitutional Amendment: Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being?

There will also be a town municipal ballot to fill a vacant select board seat until 2024 (Candidate profiles are on Page 4)

Meet the select board candidates

A candidates forum is being scheduled. Visit townofblegrade.com for information.

Nicholas Alexander

Education: Messalonskee High School graduate, KVCC current

Work experience: Volunteer positions

Political/civic experience: Board of Appeals (newly appointed); chair, Maine Chapter of Young Republican National Federation; Maine and Kennebec County GOP committees; Maine Developmental Disability Council.



Why are you running? To encourage senior and youth involvement, lower taxes, foster economic development.

What qualifies you? Practical experience in civic issues.

What is the biggest challenge facing Belgrade? Healthy and balanced living for all.

How would you address that? Listening to all community voices and representing them.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about them. Senior inclusion - Working and learning with Senior Resource Committee. Youth Engagement/Economic Development - Combining priorities that continue to foster growth and development. Identifying capacity with our rec centers and local businesses to establish a deeply rooted and meaningful community mentoring program modeled after successful entities, such as the Alford Youth Center in Waterville, programs in Augusta and across the state and nation. Working with our high school via JMG, and other programs, to prepare incoming candidates.

What's one thing you want voters 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 treehouse - 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. Visit Nicholas' Playground! I am very proud of these accomplishments. I will continue to be there making our beautiful community a better place for everyone.

Michael Barrett

Education: Hartwick College, studied biology. Also took courses in public administration at the University of Maine; constitutional law, contract law, business law and others at the University of Maine School of Law.



Work experience: Retired. Formerly, was a partner in a private company. Before the private sector, I worked for several state agencies.

Political/civic experience: Six years on select board, member of town committees including Transfer Station, Lakes, Library Trustees, and Board of Appeals.

Why are you running? To be of continued service to the community.

What qualifies you? Experience, interest and love of town.

What is the biggest challenge facing Belgrade? Taxes - keeping them within limits while still giving the people what is needed to run the town.

How would you seek to address that? See that budget requests are reasonable and necessary.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about them. The lakes are the main draw for the town. It is important to maintain the high quality of the lakes in town.

Looking down the road to Belgrade's future, to be sure Belgrade can handle any circumstance, such as another pandemic.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? I am truly interested in the welfare of Belgrade, and I will work hard to keep it wonderful place that it is now. The look of the town in the future is an important priority.

Carol Johnson

Education: BA, Colby College- Russian Language major

Work experience: Retired after 40 years with Allstate Insurance. Included corporate management experience and owning a successful agency.

Political/civic experience: Budget Committee member; president, Belgrade Lakes Association, whose mission is preserving and protecting Great and Long



Ponds; Friends of Belgrade Lakes Village board, which raised private funds to install brick sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, benches and bike racks during road reconstruction; lay leader/church council chair, Union Church at Belgrade Lakes; 2020 Spirit of America Award recipient.

Why are you running? I'm a strong believer in civic service. I have the skills to make a difference leading Belgrade forward.

What qualifies you? Business experience and ability to work for resolution to form a consensus.

What is the biggest challenge facing Belgrade? Resolving salt contamination of wells near the town office.

How would you seek to address that? We must review the options, decide on a course of action and implement a solution to prevent further cost to the town.

Name two other priorities and what you propose to do about them. Remediation of deteriorating lake water quality and maintaining property values to support tax base. Address town properties/roads contributing to runoff to the lakes and funding with ARPA monies in lieu of taxes. Responsive fiscal policies that look for opportunities to maintain services while utilizing new solutions and cost-effective technology. Implementing fiscal year change to assist budget planning.

What's one thing you want voters to know about you? I am a Belgrade girl. My parents, Lydia Farnham and Albert Johnson, grew up here, and this town means the world to me. I am committed to Belgrade - past, present and future!



Library Director Jared Bond, who was named to the position in August.

(Maureen Milliken photo)

Bond named library director

Jared Bond was promoted from librarian to library director in August, after the departure of Meghan Aube. He has worked at the library for 10 years, and has twice been interim director.

During his interview, Bond talked of libraries as a “third place” outside of home and work, where people can be their authentic selves as they seek enlightenment or enjoyment.

“I want to lead the way for us in accomplishing our goals of offering a diverse collection and interesting, entertaining and educational programming,” Bond said. “I feel confident that my experience working in the Belgrade Public Library will well prepare me for taking up the directorship.”

Bond was selected from among three finalists. Before Belgrade, he worked at Cumston Public Library in Monmouth.

“Jared has a demonstrated commitment both to the mission of libraries as communal places of exploration and to the Belgrade Public Library in particular,” said Town Manager Anthony Wilson. “He mightily impressed the interview panel with his articulate vision of what libraries can and should be. We’re excited to offer him this opportunity to lead.”

Belgrade Public Library

Hello, Belgrade! I am Jared Bond, your new library director. I am excited about the possibilities of what we can do as a community library moving forward. As library director, I want to provide excellent programming and a diverse, thoughtful and relevant selection of materials. To that end, I am inviting recommendations for books and programming. If you know of an excellent program that would benefit residents, let us know. If you read an incredible book you would suggest others read, let us know.

Currently, we’re focused on expanding our graphic novel, paperback and nonfiction collections, as well as keeping up with new releases. We have added more than 30 books since the beginning of September, including the latest from Paul Doiron and Louise Penny, two of Belgrade’s favorite authors.

We have also hired a new library clerk and library assistant. Our clerk, Kim Dawes, is a longtime Belgrade resident and retired teacher who specialized in literacy. She is taking over our Thursday Storytimes. At 11 a.m. each Thursday, Kim will be reading from great children’s books and sharing crafts. We also plan to begin a YouTube channel where we will post an online story reading each week. Kim will also be assisting in the curation of our children’s and young adult collections.

Library Assistant Alaina Hood is working toward a degree in information and library services at the University of Maine at Augusta.

The library, at 124 Depot Road, is open Tuesday through Saturdays. We offer books, e-books, audiobooks, free high-speed Wi-Fi, tech help, computers, printing, faxing, laminating and more.

Be sure to also check the library’s Facebook page for updates on programming for both adults and children. A link can be found on the town website, townofbelgrade.com.

-- Jared Bond, Library Director, 207-495-3508, librarydirector@townofbelgrade.com

Parks & Recreation

Despite several rainy Thursdays, most of the scheduled concerts in the new Summer Music Series, held at the Village Green gazebo, were a success. The Village Green also hosted monthly craft shows that attracted artisans from across Maine. The last craft show will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9.

The After-School Enrichment Program, for kindergarten through fifth-grade students, is held at the Center for All Seasons. Students arrive on a Belgrade Central School bus and get a healthy snack and time to complete homework, games and crafts. Kidzone programming from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on school vaca-

tion and teacher workshop days is also offered. For information, call 207-495-3481.

Adult programs include Kennebec Music Together, 9:30 a.m. Monday; Ping-Pong 5:30 p.m. Monday; Coffee & Tea, 9 a.m. Tuesday; yoga, 6 p.m. Thursday. North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield Road (Route 8), hosts a potluck dinner at 5 p.m., last Saturday of the month.

We also say goodbye and thank-you to Director Lily Schubert, who is leaving Oct. 1.

The Board of Parks and Recreation meets at 6:30 p.m. the last Wednesday of the month at the Center for All Seasons. All are invited.

Meet Heather DiGirolomio, new RSU 18 board member

The select board recently appointed Heather DiGirolamo to fill an unexpired term on the Regional School Unit 18 board. We asked DiGirolamo to introduce herself to Belgrade's residents:

I have a master's degree in elementary education and have taught fourth grade in Waterville for the past six years. Prior to this, I took



15 years away from teaching to raise our four children. During this time, I enjoyed volunteering in my children's classrooms, running a Girl Scout troop in Waterville and substitute teaching. I am interested in serving on the RSU 18 School Board because I am passionate about education and children.

The biggest challenge facing RSU 18 is how we best support our children during this pandemic. All children deserve a safe and comfortable environment to learn in. The pandemic has impacted our children's mental health.

I am excited about supporting my community during this pivotal time in history. We can use this time to help children develop resilience that will strengthen their characters and compassion that will allow them to become better humans.

Another priority I hope to address is helping support more students in exploring trades they can develop and use after they graduate. There is a tremendous need for people in trade fields. It is wonderful that our high school sends 121 students to Mid-Maine Technical Center and make up 30 percent of the population there. However, I would like to make sure if there are other students who'd like to learn a trade who aren't admitted to MMTC that they, too, are allowed that experience.

One thing I want Belgrade to know about me is I love being outdoors, whether it is gardening, walking on the beach with my dog, taking bike rides with my husband, camping on Campobello Island or skiing across Long Pond with my children in the winter.

Q&A with Planning Board Chair Peter Rushton

We recently sat down with Planning Board Chair Peter Rushton to talk about what the board does and what it means for residents.

Rushton has been a member of the Planning Board for 19 years, starting in 2002, and has been chair since 2007.



What are the Planning Board's responsibilities and why are they important?

The Planning Board's primary responsibility is to review and consider applications as they relate to building, renovating or planning to build in areas where the town's ordinances govern. The Planning Board also provides substantive updates to ordinances, conducted over time and usually in consultation with planning professionals, to bring the documents up to date. The Planning Board does all of this with an eye toward integrating the needs of the town and within the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Those responsibilities are important because the process provides a means to authorize an application while attempting to direct activities to be in alignment with the town's ordinances.

What's the most challenging aspect of serving on the Planning Board?

Balancing time between work needed to update the various ordinances and the work needed to review applications.

What about the Planning Board might surprise residents?

The Planning Board is a volunteer board whose primary focus is to process applications and is not a full-time planning authority.

What's the one thing you most want residents to know if they are seeking a Planning Board permit?

We need a complete application in order to process it. Be diligent and thorough, answer each question, and it will make the process more efficient for all involved.



Dusk falls as the Bob Colwell Trio wraps up their final set Sept. 23 at the Village Green Summer Concert Series. A string of rainy Thursdays extended the schedule to Sept. 30.

(Maureen Milliken photo)

Updates

Hybrid meetings

When the select board began meeting via Zoom during the pandemic, resident engagement skyrocketed. In-person meetings have returned, but residents can still participate remotely, after the town acquired a Meeting Owl, which uses a voice- and motion-activated camera and interfaces with Zoom, as well as two digital screens for the Town Office's boardroom. State law requires in-person meetings, but also allows board and committee members to participate remotely under specific circumstances. When a board member participates remotely, the public must be allowed to do the same.

Remote public opportunities are continuing with select board, planning and appeals meetings, along some other committees and community events.

Committee meetings and the Zoom links are listed on the calendar at townofbelgrade.com.

June election results

On June 8, 164 town voters cast ballots on the Regional School Unit 18 budget and three referendum questions.

Question 1 passed 144-20, dedicating \$58,874 from the \$3.5 million undesignated fund for a cement pad for containers at the Transfer Station and to replenish the Solid Waste Capital Reserve.

Question 2 passed 146-18, dedicating \$45,000 in undesignated funds toward purchase of a facilities maintenance truck.

Question 3 passed 152-9, with 3 left blank, allowing prepaid property tax collection before the tax commitment.

The Regional School Unit 18 budget was approved 116-47, with one ballot left blank.

Committee openings

The town has the following opening on its committees and boards:

Appeals Board – one alternate position.

Communications Committee – one available seat.

Don C. Stevens Committee – one available seat.

Parks & Recreation Board – six available seats and one alternate position.

Planning Board – one alternate position.

Roads Committee – two available seats.

Applications are available at TownofBelgrade.com/BoardApplication and at the Town Office., 990 Augusta Road.

For more information, contact Town Clerk Mary Vogel at 207-495-2258 or town-clerk@townofbelgrade.com.



Howard Boston receives the Boston Post Cane in 2014.

Town seeks new Boston Post Cane holder

The town is seeking a new Boston Post Cane holder after Howard Boston, 98, died Aug. 20. The cane, held by the town's oldest resident, was awarded to Boston in 2014. The town is researching who the next cane holder will be.

The Boston Post Cane tradition began in 1909, when the Boston Post newspaper distributed the canes to towns throughout New England with instructions that each should be presented to the oldest man in the town (women were included in 1930). As many as 700 canes were distributed, and 517 towns in New England still bestow it.

The cane, made from Gabon ebony with a 14-carat gold top, officially belongs to the town and is kept in a glass case in the board room at the Town Office, along with the names of its recipients, who are:

Joel Richardson, born Dec. 9, 1837. Cane held 1925-March 26, 1928.

Effie Minot, born Nov. 10, 1836. Cane held unknown-Dec. 8, 1939.

Guy Yeaton, born March 2, 1882. Cane held Feb. 19, 1979-January 1980.

Stephen Twombly, born Aug. 8, 1888. Cane held from Aug. 8, 1980-April 1984.

Mina Yeaton Stuart, born Jan. 25, 1888. Cane held 1984-Jan. 14, 1989.

Arobine Twombly, born June 13, 1891. Cane held March 1989-Aug. 2, 1989.

Margaret Jenney, born April 14, 1896. Cane held unknown-Aug. 31, 1992.

Ruth Wort, born Aug. 8, 1897. Cane held unknown-Nov. 8, 1992.

Pearl Rich, born Dec. 24, 1898. Cane held from May 19, 1994-December 1994.

Helen Lundgren, born Feb. 11, 1902. Cane held April 2001-Jan. 14, 2009.

Esther Childs, born March 23, 1913. Cane held June 1, 2009-Dec. 2, 2012.

Stanley Lord, born Dec. 15, 1921. Cane held July 20, 2013-Feb. 27, 2014.

Howard Boston, born Nov. 28, 1922. Cane held July 15, 2014-Aug. 20, 2021.

First Responders memorial is in the planning stage

A group of town residents is working on a memorial to show appreciation to first responders, those public servants who are there for us in times of emergency.

The first phase of the project has already started – photos of the town’s fire and rescue volunteers displayed at the Town Office.

The First Responders Memorial Committee hopes the second phase, the memorial, will be a public-private partnership, with the town contributing some of the cost, and the rest covered by private fundraising.

The association is discussing possible locations and designs.

The hope is to get funding at March Town Meeting, with construction next summer. The association plans to present the design and location to the select board this fall.

To contribute, write a check payable to Belgrade Fire & Rescue Association. In the memo line, write “First-Responders Memorial” so the association can deposit it. Mail checks to Belgrade Fire & Rescue Association, P.O. Box 404, Belgrade, ME 04917, or drop off a check at the town office.

For more information, contact:
Mac Stocco, (207-465-2806, macstocco@yahoo.com)
Penny Morrell, pmorrell2@roadrunner.com
Fred Perkins, perkferk@gmail.com
Kate Damren, kdamren@rsu18.org
Bruce Galouch bob-theplumberme@gmail.com)
Phil Sprague ljplsprague@gmail.com
Michial Heino
msp15ret@roadrunner.com
Jay Bradshaw jaybrad@gmail.com
Dan MacKenzie
dan@generatorsofmaine.com.

Fire & Rescue

It has been a busy summer for Belgrade Fire & Rescue. Unfortunately, we were not able to host our traditional fundraisers because of ongoing concerns related to COVID-19. We hope 2022 brings some normalcy, including the popular beanhole supper, back to our community.

Belgrade Fire & Rescue continues to provide 24/7 coverage to the community, despite the pandemic. We are staffed with either a paramedic or an advanced emergency medical technician during the day, seven days a week, with volunteer firefighters and EMTs helping out when they are needed and are available. Nights continue to be covered by volunteers.

Anyone who would like to join our team as a volunteer may contact one of the department’s officers or call the station at 207-495-7739. We are looking for members who can commit to our team and who have the ability and availability to respond to calls for service, as well as to meet regularly for training. Belgrade Fire & Rescue volunteers get paid twice a year based on the number of calls they respond to, as well as for training, at an hourly rate.

Serving requires a big commitment. However, the experience of giving back to the community and of helping to provide a vital public service is vastly rewarding. The department has several duties, from drivers to emergency medical services providers to interior and exterior firefighters, along with support roles. We hope everyone stays safe this fall. As always, thank you, Belgrade residents – both seasonal and full-time – for your continued support.

-- *Fire Chief Dan MacKenzie, Rescue Chief Travis Burton, 207-495-7739, rescuechief@townofbelgrade.com*

Transfer Station & Recycling Center

On Saturday, Oct. 16, Belgrade residents can participate in a household hazardous waste collection in Winslow. This is a chance to rid of batteries, fuel, paint, household cleaners and chemicals, pesticides, TVs, computers, electronic waste and fluorescent bulbs. Participants must register in advance at the Town Office.

Saturday, Oct. 23, is a prescription drug takeback day. A Kennebec County sheriff’s deputy will be at the center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to collect unused pharmaceuticals.

Oct. 7 is the final Thursday the Transfer Station will be open this year. Hours are noon-5 p.m. The schedule will go back to two days, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday.

A reminder, we participate in Terracycle, a free recycling program funded by brands, manufacturers and retailers. Sponsored categories are:

Burt’s Bees products, packaging.

Used Popsocket products and any brand of used phone cases.

Used office stationery (pens, glue sticks, etc.)

Used razors, blades, packaging.

For every pound of product waste we collect, Terracycle donates to a cause of our choice.

You can also support recycling by buying a tote made from 100-percent recycled materials. They are available in five colors and make great book and shopping bags. Buy them at the Town Office, Transfer Station, Library, and Hello, Good Pie;

Also, new bulk waste punch cards are available at the Town Office. Pink ones have expired. We also have free compost; see an attendant.

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

Belgrade Naturally

By Sandy Colt

As I write these words, it is late August and the meadows and woods are slowly transitioning to the quiet of winter. The birds' frenetic drive to court, mate, and successfully raise a brood of young is over.

Although I miss the air full of swooping swallows, the flash of a bluebird's bright color as it dives to the ground, and the myriad of bird songs we are blessed with – I do not miss the anxiety that I feel as I become invested in the lives and reproductive success of the birds I am attached to. Will the bluebird and swallow pairs ever stop arguing and settle in their respective bird houses? Will their young survive first a drought, then days of drenching rain, and finally sweltering heat? Why did the barn swallows pass by our barn this year, and will the young loons in Great Pond survive the bald eagle's search for food?

I am an empty nester, worrying not about my children (both happy adults), but about broods of birds! I am not alone in these concerns. During the isolation of COVID-19, many people turned curious gazes into their own backyards -- noticing, questioning, learning and truly seeing. Knowledge brings awareness and caring about the effects of humans on the natural surroundings. Perhaps we re-evaluate the use of weed killers and insecticides, or the need to mow fields and trim trees during nesting, or the speed of our motor boats near nesting loons.

However, knowledge of nature also brings affirmation and joy, which far surpasses the worries. Of particular note, a hermit thrush returned to our small bit of woods, its fluting song so sweet, it brought tears. And a pair of barred owls has blessed those same woods with a cacophony of hoots and yowls – interspersed with a new sound (for me) of an immature barred owl begging for food. And so, Belgrade's natural world continues to inspire hope and optimism, even during these difficult and challenging times.



The town's long-time Christmas tree on the Village Green was one of dozens of trees to come down during the June 30 microburst. (Maureen Milliken photo)

Belgrade rallies after microburst

The destruction caused by a microburst on the afternoon of June 30 was impressive, but no more so than the community's response.

Seemingly within seconds of the storm's devastating wind and rain, first responders – including Belgrade Fire & Rescue – were re-routing traffic away from the damaged area in the village. Moments after that, a team of front-line workers swooped in to take on the massive job of clearing trees from Main Street, securing downed power lines and restoring electric service.

Among those contributing to the effort were Central Maine Power, the Maine Department of Transportation, the town of Belgrade, and several local and area tree services. At the same time, neighbors immediately set about helping one another, emerging with chainsaws and other tools to remove debris from homes and yards.

Remarkably, by the following day, the village's streets were cleared.

The teamwork involved was, in a word, amazing, as was the spirit of community. Thank you to all who contributed to this community effort.

Belgrade is among the most beautiful towns Maine has to offer, but the people truly make Belgrade the special place it is to live – whether year-round or seasonally. That is always apparent when one of us needs a hand from a neighbor – and that was rarely more evident than in the wake of this summer storm.

We'd be remiss if we didn't acknowledge that Belgrade lost a summer resident during the violent storm. Stefanie Rothschild, 52, of Maryland, was fatally injured when a tree crashed down upon her vehicle. Our sympathies go out to her friends, her family and her loved ones.

— Antony Wilson, Town Manager

Dams Committee Report

As I write this update, all of our ponds are back to above full, which has been our objective after a forecast of another summer of drought, which obviously didn't happen. With all of these afternoon showers, Long Pond at this writing is 1.08 inches above full pond, Great Pond is 2.88 inches above full. Salmon/McGrath is running right at 1.5 inches above full. Messalonskee Lake is 3.48 inches below full because of its electricity generation.

Phase II of the two-year Wings Mill Dam remediation project is underway, with the downstream turbidity filter to catch debris now in place. The

rubber and nylon reinforced coffer dam, which is essentially a large water bag that weighs 2,500 pounds dry, is being installed once again by Central Maine Crane Co.,

The 2021-22 fall drawdown calls for Great and Long ponds to be drawn down to 1.5 to 2 feet and Salmon down to 1 to 1.5 feet by Nov. 1. The drawdowns usually begin after the second weekend of October. Access the 2021-22 winter/fall drawdown schedule on the town's website.

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

Loon Preservation Project

The Belgrade Lakes Association is into the third year of the Loon Preservation Project, which actively monitors the health and productivity of this native and iconic loon population. So far, productivity is down throughout the Northeast, and egg abandonment is up, both troubling issues that continue to perplex wildlife scientists. Seven man-made floating nests and local quality initiatives are aimed at turning this around.

Of Great Pond's 14 known loon

territories, five chicks were found to be healthy and on their way to fledging (12 weeks of age). Last year, 8,500-acre Great Pond hatched only one chick. This year has been a marked improvement, but still under the seven to eight chick average. Long Pond's 11 territories produced just three chicks, the same as last year. Long Pond should be producing five to seven fledged chicks.

— Dick Greenan, chair, Loon Preservation Project

Town establishes Lakes Committee

In March, the Lakes Committee became a standing town committee, tasked with researching and discussing issues, concerns and other matters that have an impact on Belgrade's greatest natural resource — its lakes. Findings are then reported to the select board.

The Lakes Committee began as the ad-hoc Moorings Committee, which worked with the select board to develop and recommend an ordinance for moorings and live-aboard houseboats on Belgrade's lakes. Voters approved the resulting Moorings Ordinance at Town Meeting in March.

The Lakes Committee works in partnership with the 7 Lakes Alliance, local lake associations, other towns that share Belgrade's lakes and other stakeholders to address lake-related matters. The committee's charge includes not only the long-term water quality of Belgrade's lakes, but also quality of life issues. To date, the committee has engaged in discussions with partners and stakeholders on topics that include:

- A review of the Great Pond Watershed Survey's recommenda-

tions and next steps;

- A presentation by Dams Committee Chairman Dick Greenan on Belgrade's three dams;

- The concept of a watershed district, with former town manager and state representative Dennis Keschl;

- A discussion with George Seel, chair of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, on whether Belgrade's land use ordinances adequately protect water quality.

A joint meeting is planned this fall between the Planning Board and the Lakes and Comprehensive Plan committees. The objective is to educate the three boards as to the water quality of Great Pond, Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond, and what we know about the sources of phosphorous and nutrient loading that has a negative impact. Meetings on Long Pond and Messalonskee Lake will follow. The presentations will lay the educational groundwork for future meetings and identify actions that the three committees can undertake within their charters, charges and bylaws.

— Pat Donahue, Lakes Committee Chair

Senior Resources Committee

The Senior Resources Committee met via Zoom over the past year, accomplishing many initiatives from goals set under Chairman Gary Mahler's leadership, including producing a senior resources brochure and magnet, and conducting a seniors survey.

More recently, the group revised its mission statement to update its goals. Those include making Belgrade age-friendly, identifying service and resource needs and developing an Age-Friendly Action Plan.

The committee's purpose is to make recommendations regarding existing services and programs for Belgrade's seniors to ensure they can live safely, with dignity and with financial and social independence. The committee will explore volunteer and grant opportunities and funding avenues to support its recommendations. It will also develop a strategy for communicating to seniors about resources.

In keeping with its goals, the committee has obtained File of Life folders, which aid first responders during emergencies. The inserts provide medical information and conditions, emergency contacts and whether the senior has a do-not-resuscitate order. A committee member donated \$400 to buy the folders, which are available to those 65 and older at the Town Office. The committee also plans to distribute the folders at town events.

Additionally, a spreadsheet will be kept of seniors and their addresses, and provided to Belgrade's Fire & Rescue Department.

The committee has many ideas, and looks forward to soon providing seniors with more opportunities and resources.

We are readying another survey to learn what services seniors most desire. We welcome volunteers and the public to join us at our meetings at 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month at the Town Office.

For more information, visit TownofBelgrade.com/seniors or call 207-495-2258.

—Tasha Gradie and Mary Vogel
Senior Resources Committee Co-Chairs

Fall recipe



By Brian Beaupain

Pumpkin Spice Stuffed Baked Apples

Ingredients

3 apples

For the filling:

1 can pumpkin puree

1/3 cup heavy cream

1/3 cup maple syrup

1 egg

1 tablespoon vanilla extract

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

For the streusel topping:

1/2 cups oats

1 teaspoon cinnamon

2 tablespoons melted butter

2 tablespoons maple syrup

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Mix all ingredients for the filling and set aside

Mix all ingredients for the topping and set aside

Line a baking pan or sheet with tin foil or parchment paper

Cut apples in half, then scoop out the core with a spoon, making a cup. I like to then cut a little off the bottom, so the apple will stand without rolling around.

Fill each apple with the pumpkin filling

Top with streusel topping

When the oven is preheated, bake apples for 20-30 minutes or whenever the apples are soft.

Let cool for 5-10 minutes and enjoy!

Whether you've just had a family outing at an apple orchard or you're just looking for a delicious and easy dessert to make at home, this recipe is sure to please. I would suggest using a firmer apple for this recipe, such as a Granny Smith, so the apple doesn't become too mushy. Enjoy these apples with some whipped cream or even ice cream.

This recipe can easily be made gluten-free by using gluten-free oats, or vegan by substituting the cream and egg for vegan alternatives..

— *Brian Beaupain*, a member of the Communications Committee, is food service director at Fayette Central School during the school year and, in the summer, chef at Camp Androscoggin

Upcoming events

Every Thursday at 11 a.m. – Belgrade Public Library Outdoor Storytime & Crafts, with Kim Dawes, no registration required, 124 Depot St.

[Online video version coming soon, check Belgrade Public Library Facebook page]

Adult programs, Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive (on Route 27 just south of the Village): Kennebec Music Together, 9:30 a.m. Monday; Ping-Pong 5:30 p.m. Monday; Coffee & Tea, 9 a.m. Tuesday; yoga, 6 p.m. Thursday. North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield Road, potluck 5 p.m., last Saturday of the month.

Oct. 7 – 7 Lakes Alliance hosts “author James Paruk, “Loon Lessons: Uncommon Encounters with the Great Northern Diver,” via Zoom, 7lakesalliance.org.

Oct. 9 – Belgrade Lakes Harvest Festival, events beginning at 9 a.m. village.

Oct. 9 – Village Green craft show, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., final

show of the season, Village Green, intersection of West Road and Main Street, in the Village.

Oct. 14 – Exploring Race & Relationships discussion group, 7 p.m. Belgrade Public Library, online event.

Oct. 16 – Hazardous Household Waste Disposal, 8 a.m.-noon, Winslow Public Works Building, 135 Halifax St., free, registration required, see Belgrade Transfer Station Director Ken Scheno at the transfer station or call 207-495-3326.

Oct. 28 – Belgrade Public Library hosts Maine Crime Writers panel of four Maine authors to share their insights into writing -- Kate Flora, Belgrade resident Maureen Milliken, Susan Vaughan, Maggie Robinson, 6 p.m., online event.

Dec. 4 – Christmas Tree Lighting, Holiday Stroll, beginning 4 p.m. in the Village. Check townofbelgrade.com for updates



The last craft fair on the Village Green is Oct. 9.

(Maureen Milliken photo)

Flu shots available Oct. 9

The Belgrade Regional Health Center will offer free flu shots to its patients and community members from 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 9. The limited number of vaccinations will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis. The center is at 4 Clement Way, along Route 27.

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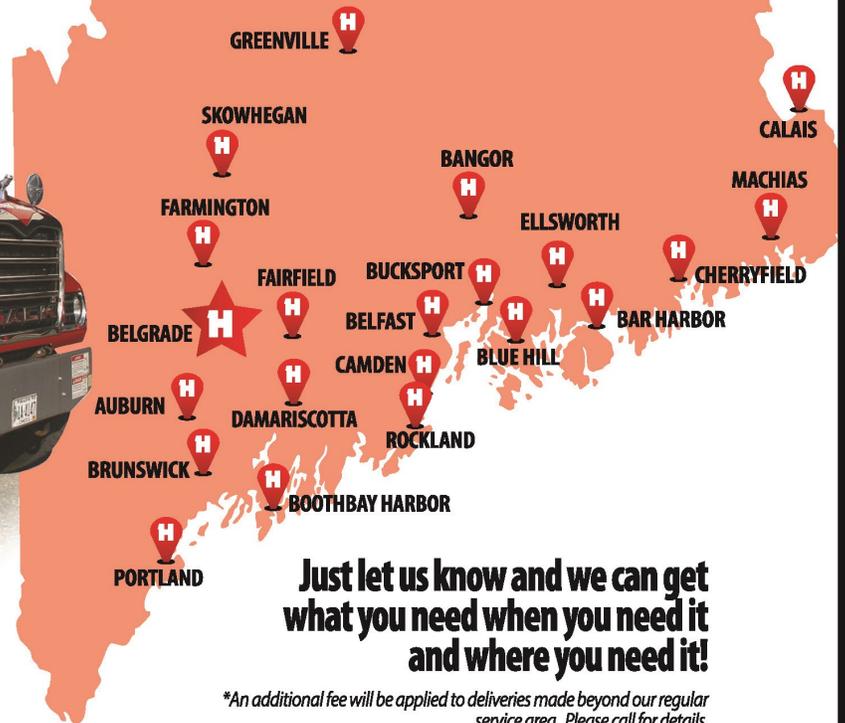
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| 1st and 3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m. | 1st and 3rd Thursday @ 7 p.m. | 4th Wednesday @ 7 pm | 4th Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m. |

Check townofbelgrade.com for a full schedule of boards, committees and meetings, as well as agendas, minutes and 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.
For a color copy of the Bulletin, as well as previous newsletters, visit townofbelgrade.com.

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