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## Employee Spotlight

### Frank Sartori

Parks and Cemetery Division Manager of the  
Department of Public Works

Each month, Town Administrator Patrice Garvin highlights a single employee whose hard work and dedication exemplifies what it means to be an employee for the Town of Belmont. In the Employee Spotlight series, we are able to shine a light on incredible employee achievements and provide an opportunity to introduce and recognize Belmont Town employees throughout the Belmont community.

In this month's Bulletin, Town Administrator Garvin would like to recognize Frank Sartori, manager of the Parks and Cemetery Division of the Department of Public Works. Frank has been a critically important member of the DPW since starting part-time in 1989 and now is celebrating his 35th year taking care of some of Belmont's most treasured spaces. DPW Director Jay Marcotte took a moment to reflect on Frank's good work by saying, "Frank has been a great member of our team for many years and the pride he has for Belmont's parks and outdoor athletic facilities including the old rink and Underwood Pool really makes these community spaces enjoyable and places to be proud of."

Asking Frank about the important job that he does in preserving and maintaining the nearly 70-acres of green spaces around Town may yield an answer that takes you to the level of granular detail of each individual blade of grass or synthetic turf. When asked to talk about his work Frank explains: "What we do in public works and the maintenance of the parks and the Town's two cemeteries is a lot more than trimming shrubs and cutting grass, you have to be a jack of all trades. These spaces are for everyone to enjoy and we all want them to be the best that they can be and work towards making them even better."

The passion and pride that Frank has in what he does comes in part from playing sports as a kid in North Cambridge, where he took full advantage of indoor and outdoor sporting venues. Frank smiled as he thought back to days in his youth as a hockey player, when he would play in community hockey rinks across the region. This included the old Skip Viglirolo Skating Rink in Belmont. Frank reflected on this when he shared, "I played many a game at the old rink when I was young and I never thought at the time that I would someday be taking care of this place."

Frank led the caretaking of the old rink from his first days as an employee in Belmont in 1989 right up to the present time as we work to construct a new rink ensuring many seasons of fun memories for so many throughout the Belmont community. Frank was even hired by the rink's namesake Skip Viglirolo, when Skip was working for the Town. Frank remembers, "It's pretty cool to have been hired by a Belmont Legend like Skippy Viglirolo. I didn't think that I would have stayed on as long as I have, but I really liked the work after that first year and I've been liking it ever since."



Day-to-day and season-to-season there seems to be a never-ending checklist of tasks to accomplish. These include measuring sports fields from soccer boundaries to the baselines on the Town's baseball and softball fields. Frank and his team have to keep up-to-date on youth sports rules and regulations to ensure league compliances and also stay up-to-date on the various and ever-improving safety regulations for the Town's playgrounds. Frank says, "there is a lot to do and learn. We are always learning and taking advantage of opportunities to find out how our facilities can be more enjoyable and at the same time be safe for everyone."

Over the years, Frank could list many accomplishments. For him, the accomplishments he is most proud of is keeping both the Ice Rink and Underwood Pool operational season after season. Frank explains, "recreation and sports are so important on so many levels for the community and for years we had to work with aging infrastructure at the Underwood Pool—which had been around for 100 years and the Ice Rink, which we kept running for 15 years after we were told repairs would only accommodate operation for 2 years. We have seen the Underwood pool transform into a modern facility and the rink is on its way. I'm really proud we kept these resources going."

Part of what has kept Frank engaged has been all the developments and improvements he has helped shepherd over the years from the improvements to Harris Field seeing the installation of a turf field, new track and lights, the opening of the Highland Meadow Cemetery, the modernization of the Underwood Pool, new playgrounds, and breaking ground on a new ice rink to name a few. These improvements have not come without challenges. Frank takes on each challenge as a problem that can be solved. Frank says, "every day has its challenges and you have to approach them with the mindset that they can be overcome. It helps if you like what you do and aren't afraid to get your own hands dirty to get the job done. For me I can see the value of what I do in the people's faces who enjoy all the playgrounds and sports fields throughout Town and that's worth solving a challenge or two."

Outside of the parks and cemeteries, when Frank isn't getting his hands dirty at work, he enjoys cooking Italian cuisine or firing up the grill. He also continues his love for sports as a spectator and tries to get out on the golf course when he can.