

# TOWN CLERK

The following report for the Town Clerk for the year ending December 31, 2005 is respectfully submitted:

The Town Clerk's office is again staffed by the clerk and two full time employees. It was with regret we saw our long time clerical assistant, Barbara Roche, leave us for the luxury of retirement. Barbara joined us in 1997 after working several years in the school system.

The volunteer program controlled by the Assessing Department with the cooperation of the Council On Aging participants is a great help to us in compiling the annual census and sale of animal licenses. Ellen Lavin and Grace Harrington once again came to our rescue. We are most grateful to them! We are fortunate to have dedicated citizens and good friends when we become overwhelmed. It is wonderful to get the help and still be giving help with a tax credit to our seniors. These seniors are the ones who made Belmont the desirable Town we enjoy.

The Town was saddened by many deaths this year, but the Town Clerk and staff were especially affected by the loss of good friend and devoted Registrar Jack Donahue on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Donahue had always cleared his schedule and made himself available the entire election day. On many occasions he assisted citizens above and beyond the requirements of a Registrar. His death followed that of Registrar Mary Harrington less than a year earlier. Recently we learned of the death of former Town Clerk, Ann Cresine Wilson, who had relocated in Virginia.

The Annual Town Meeting convened on April 25<sup>th</sup> and continued on the 27<sup>th</sup> with a Special Town Meeting within the April 27<sup>th</sup> session. Other Special Town Meetings were held on February 7, 2005, March 21<sup>st</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup> and October 24<sup>th</sup>. Minutes of the meetings as well as all election results can be found elsewhere in this book with full copies available for reading at the Town Clerk's office.

<u>Vital Statistics</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
BIRTHS	247	273
DEATHS	211	179
MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED	146	168

Not all births and deaths are recorded at the time of this writing as Boston and Cambridge who account for the majority of occurrences are still in the process of sending notification to cities and towns. We can boast ten sets of twins born to Belmont parents. Seven adoptions were recorded making many children fortunate and families overjoyed

One hundred fifty-eight (158) individuals have come into the office to take the required oath after being appointed or elected to a Board or Commission. The Town Clerk annually visits the Auxiliary/Special Police meeting in May to administer the oath in a group setting.

The Passport business is proving both popular and beneficial. In 2005 the Clerk's office processed ninety-two (92) applications.

## **TOWN CLERK REVENUE – 2005**

Dogs.....	\$10,554.00
Cats.....	5,366.00
Sporting Fees.....	190.40
Marriage Intentions.....	3,000.00
Licenses (Used car, New car, Common Vict.).....	5,140.00
Fuel Permits.....	575.00
Certified Certificates.....	17,937.80
Labels sold.....	623.00
Violations.....	1,280.00
Business Certificates.....	2,517.00
Resident Books.....	1,609.00
Maps/Raffle Permits.....	150.00
Zoning Books.....	725.00
Passports.....	2,760.00
Hunting & Fishing Money to Commonwealth.....	3,150.25
Stamp money to Commonwealth.....	619.75
Recycle Stickers money to DPW.....	<u>2,385.00</u>
	\$58,582.20

Our Animal Control Officer is keeping on top of unlicensed animals and the number of dogs licensed in 2005 was 1111 and cats 740. That gives us an increase of 39 dogs and 86 cats over 2004. The animal licensing program is the forerunner in our revenue, but I feel the apathy of the public in licensing their animals is disturbing. Yes, we need the revenue, but what we really want is for these people to come forward and produce proof of vaccination which is beneficial to everyone. The idea of a rabid animal attacking a human or even another animal is troubling.

The Town Clerk attended several seminars and the annual summer conference. These are teaching and networking sessions and most valuable. Vital statistic record keeping has changed immensely and must be updated often to keep up with new

laws and customs. On May 17<sup>th</sup> the Town Clerk and other elected officials attended the first Anniversary celebration of the legalization of all persons to wed in Massachusetts.

We continue to assist the Belmont Historical Commission and Historical Society with the sale of books, boxes of notes and the wonderful Belmont Afghan. We did a brisk business for the holidays.

The staff remains dedicated to providing service and information to all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Delores A. Keefe, Town Clerk