



Fall Fun' brings meaning to the season in Belmont

Going for a ride

By JOHN KOZIOL

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WITH THE Gilbert sisters — Beckett, center, and Abbie, right, riding shotgun — and with their parents, Chris and Nikki in the back, Matt Swain of Heritage Farm leads Belgian horses 'Ben' and 'Ruby' back to Sargent Park afternoon after giving the Gilberts' a horse-drawn tour of Belmont Village during the inaugural Fall Fun event at the popular downtown facility. Hundreds of people turned out for the fun, which included free refreshments and hayrides, courtesy of Swain and his steeds. JOHN KOZIOL/CITIZEN

BELMONT — With a little help from a lot of friends, Sargent Park shone on Saturday when it hosted “Fall Fun,” an opportunity for the public to learn about the many offerings of this modestly sized facility located in the heart of Belmont Village.

The event featured complementary hay rides, courtesy of Heritage Farm; games and cotton candy and popcorn, both of which were made fresh at the park by members of the Belmont Rotary Club.

The Rotary club is very involved in a number of community activities, said Tina Fleming on behalf of the Belmont Parks and Recreation Department. According to Fleming, the parks and recreation department stepped up to promote “Fall Fun” with the larger goal of also promoting Sargent Park, an interconnected venue that has basketball and tennis courts, a floor-hockey court, exercise stations, a playground, and a covered pavilion.

Rotarian Ron Mitchell, who is also a member of the Belmont Budget Committee, said the town has made “great strides reinvesting in the community,” and that it was only fitting that those accomplishments, like at Sargent Park, be recognized and celebrated.

He joked that all the repair work going on throughout Belmont Village made it “easier on the horse’s hooves” because the equines on Saturday got to travel over relatively softer gravel beneath the roadway asphalt because so much of the asphalt has been ripped up as part of one or more ongoing improvement projects.

Mitchell said the Rotary club was glad to help out with “Fall Fun,” and was happy that the popcorn and cotton candy that club members made was so well received.

Abbie Gilbert, age 7, was very impressed with the cotton candy, so much so that her mom Nikki noted that she was wearing a lot of it on her face. Along with her mom, dad Chris and sister five-year old sister Beckett, Abbie said the best part of Fall Fun, however, was the hayride, although she enjoyed everything.