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## New farmers markets in Gilford, Belmont

By TIM CAMERATO | Mar 04, 2015

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CITIZEN FILE PHOTO

THE BENJAMIN ROWE House will be the site of Gilford's farmers market this summer.

**GILFORD** — Lakes Region residents looking for some fresh produce, crafts and a good time on weekends this summer will have two new options as Belmont and Gilford will both become home to new farmers markets beginning in June.

Gilford's market will be organized by the Thompson-Ames Historical Society on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the Benjamin Rowe House.

Carmel Lancia, a member of the society's board of directors, said vendor fees will go towards renovation of 1838 Greek Revival Cape house.

Late last year, the historical society and town of Gilford were awarded a New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program grant for \$26,199 toward a total project amount of \$52,398.

Thompson-Ames leases the house from the town and covers heating and electrical expenses while maintaining its interior and garden. The land is owned by the school district. Because of the cooperation between the three, the society is asking both the selectmen and School Board to endorse the project.

“I really hope you’ll consider this to be a very good thing for Gilford,” Lancia told the board on Monday.

With nearby senior housing and the Gilford Elementary School parking lot, Lancia said it will be really accessible to residents.

“Hopefully, we’ll get lots of farmers and lots of interesting things at the farmers market,” Lancia said.

Belmont’s market will take place once a month at the new Belmont Pavilion and mill parking lot. Special Events Coordinator Gretta Olson-Wilder said she hopes for it to be more of an event than shopping trip.

Olson-Wilder said the market will have vendors, but also children’s’ activities, live entertainment and demonstrations. She’s hoping that local craftsmen will come and show others how do activities like spin yarn or tie flies for fly fishing.

She said that’s part of an effort to make the market an “event where people actually come and stay for a while versus coming in buying corn or something and leaving right away.”

Olson-Wilder said the idea of hosting a farmers market has been thrown around by residents and various community members for the last couple of years. When she was applying to become special events coordinator, she made sure to include it in her plans.

This summer’s Belmont market days will be held on June 28, July 26, Aug. 30 and Sept. 20. Olson-Wilder said she already had three interested vendors. Others can reach her at 998-3525.

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