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SERVING TILTON, NORTHFIELD, BELMONT & SANBORNTON, N.H.

FREE

Belmont gearing up for annual 10-mile race

BY BOB MARTIN

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BELMONT — For nearly a half-century, residents of Belmont and beyond have been participating in the 10-mile road race during Old Home Day. This

year the town celebrates the 49th anniversary of the event on Aug. 12, and around 80 runners are expected to hit the streets amidst cheering townsfolk.

The race, which event planner Gretta Olson-Wilder said is quite challenging at points, begins on Concord Street and finishes near town hall on Main Street. It is a USA Track and Field sanctioned event that is timed by Yankee Timing Company and 3C Race Productions.

Olson-Wilder said the race tends to attract runners ranging from high school to up-

wards of 70-years-old. She said some people do this to qualify for other races, as it is sanctioned, but there are others who are just trying to knock something off their bucket list.

While she hasn't run the race herself, she has walked the route and can understand why people like it so much. It is not only challenging, but provides for good scenery with a tough hill at the end of the race.

"Bean Hill Road is a tough part of the race," said Olson-Wilder.

"This connects Union

Road to Seavey Road by the high school. It is a long hill up and a long hill down."

She also said it is popular due to its lengthy history, and the fact that it ties in with Old Home Day.

Olson-Wilder said it is a great event to kick off the Old Home Day, which normally attracts a large crowd of local residents. There is a parade that is always well attended, and people can kick back and relax while listening to music or getting a bite to eat from the midway. Local organizations and school groups take care of the majority of the food vending, and there are others selling souvenirs, clothing, jewelry and more.

There will also be the annual Belmont Fire Department chicken barbeque, which is always a hit among the residents, as well as the fireworks and music by the B Street Bombers.

Runners are asked to arrive by 8 a.m. for final registration and number at Belmont Middle School. Those racing will get a commemorative t-shirt. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. sharp.

Following the race there will be prizes for each division, race results and other awards once the last runner finishes. The ceremony will be near town hall at the finish line.

For more information contact Olson-Wilder at 998-3535 or Jeff Roberts at 491-0979. Questions can be addressed to events@belmontnh.org.

To view a map of the race, log onto <http://www.usatf.org/events/courses/maps/showMap.asp?courseID=NH13006RF>.