

Winnisquam Echo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014

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

FREE

Deck the Village festivities bring holiday cheer to Belmont

BY DONNA RHODES

Drhodes@salmonpress.com

BELMONT — Belmont Village was bustling with holiday revelers last Sunday afternoon, when the annual Deck the Village celebration got underway.

Under the direction of the town's new Events Coordinator, Gretta Olson-Wilder, families had much to enjoy over the course of the event.

On the second floor of the Belmont Mill building was Santa's Sweet Shop, where there were cookies to decorate and eat. Besides the snacks, there were numerous craft tables where children of all ages could be found coloring, creating holiday ornaments, assembling Rudolph's Shiny Nose and enjoying other fun filled crafts.

"I think even the adults are having fun with all of this," volun-



DONNA RHODES

Eight-year-old Ricky enjoyed all the crafts at this year's Deck the Village celebration in Belmont.

teer Jennifer Cashman observed as she looked around the crowded room.

Eight-year-old Ricky was busy at one table where he and other boys and girls were poking shimmering tinsel and

other colorful items inside their clear glass ornaments.

"I'm adding lots of glitter and decorating it with all kinds of stuff to mine so it'll look beautiful on our tree," he said.

His dad Tom looked

on as Ricky worked on his decoration and said Deck the Village has become a family tradition at their house.

"I love that fact that we get to do this every year. It's just a lot of fun," he said.

BELMONT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

have music here inside, too, and people are really enjoying them," said Olson-Wilder.

Across the green in the Belmont Public Library boys and girls also gathered in groups in front of the fireplace, where Library Director Becky Albert read holiday stories like Jan Brett's classic book, "The Mitten," and "McDuff's Christmas" by Rosemary Wells.

The Belmont Police Department was also on hand to greet residents and collect unwrapped gifts for their Santa's Little Helpers toy drive.

At 3 p.m., everyone's attention was directed to the Town Green where the Belmont High School Marching Band filled the crisp air with a selection of seasonal favorites like "Do You Hear What I Hear" and other holiday tunes.

Despite the chilly temperatures, young David Lacey was excited to be

outside for the day with his dad Larry and sister Emma. They had come to Deck the Village to see his older sister perform with the band and to also take part in some of the other activities.

"I'm having a lot of fun today because I can step in the snow, hear my sister play, and I get to decorate cookies," he said with a big grin.

There was also one other surprise for David and all the other children when, as the band finished their last song,

the Belmont Fire Department arrived with none other than Santa riding along with them in their truck.

Santa greeted everyone with his familiar "Ho, ho, ho" then settled down to meet with the boys and girls one at a time as he ended the day by hearing their Christmas wishes.

"We had a really great turnout today, and it was nice to see everyone having such a good time together as a community," said Olson-Wilder.