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2012-10-27 / Local

Tioga Bridge repair delayed because of incoming hurricane

By BENJAMIN C. KLEIN

bklein@citizen.com

BELMONT — With Hurricane Sandy threatening the East Coast in the next few days, construction on the Tioga Bridge on Church Street has been delayed again until at least the middle of next week.

The bridge has been closed since August, when a routine inspection by the state determined it was in need of immediate repair. Belmont Town Administrator Jeanne Beaudin took the state's advice and has closed the bridge to vehicle traffic.

Motorists traveling to and from Belmont High School have found their commute more difficult without the use of the bridge.

Along with the need for traffic to be diverted, multiple school bus routes for Belmont High School have also had to be rerouted without use of the bridge.

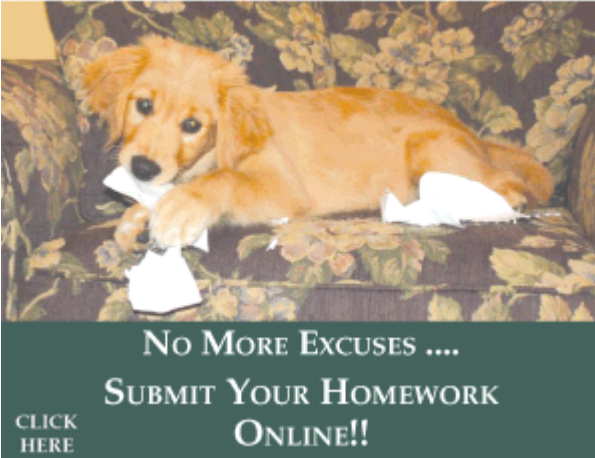
While construction has been delayed, Beaudin said that Busby Construction, the construction company contracted for the repair, has already moved some equipment needed for the repair into the area and started doing preliminary work.

However, Beaudin said that construction can not begin until the weather forecast calls for a "dry spell," which she said consists of a three to four day window without rain in the forecast. According to Beaudin, the construction must be performed in dry weather for safety concerns.

The original estimate stated that the bridge would be finished and reopened to motorists by Thanksgiving and Beaudin said the delays should not affect their timetable.



According to Beaudin, it was determined that the steel culvert had severe corrosion because of the formation of rust



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