Belmont police & fire personnel lead cleanup of WInnissquam Trail

BY DONNA RHODES
BELMONT — On May 26, members of Belmont’s police and fire departments went above and beyond in their duties by participating in a cleanup safely walk along the Lake Winnisquam Scenic Trail, nicknamed the “Winni Trail,” as well as the Lakes Region YMCA’s bike trails and the town’s ski trails, the town’s Trail has been used by bikers and walkers for years, but some have left behind trash. The efforts of officers not only cleaned trash bags of trash but revealed a few safety issues, which they handled before the busy summer season gets underway.

Among the hazards was a tree that had fallen across the scenic trail. Firefighter Michael Eklund and Belmont Police Department’s Capt. Ryan Bean cleaned up the area and used the town’s new rubber vehicle to remove the tree so it wouldn’t inhibit bicycle or foot traffic along the lake.

BFD Captain Michael Newhall also discovered a discarded needle and it was quickly removed for proper disposal.

“Now that the nice weather is here and the summer season gets underway, everyone to remember that our freedoms were won by those who (died for purity and innocence, and valor, and the field of blue behind the stars represented the president, which at that time was Washington. “The red is significant to me though,” Stanley said, “as I believe it also represents the blood of those people who died for a noble cause.” He then called attention to the names etched on the monument, and asked everyone to remember that there were more than names. They were real people from the town who fought for the country they loved and never came home.

Webber, an Iraqi War veteran, took on the topic of heroes and he called attention to the men and women in uniform, the ceremony, page A15

Speaker touches on history of the Stars & Stripes at Belmont’s Memorial Day ceremony

BY DONNA RHODES
BELMONT — Memorial Day in Belmont was a solemn occasion when all paid tribute for a noble cause. Among those honored in a speech by keynote speaker, retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kurt Webber, while the meaning of the American flag was addressed by Charles Kilborn American Legion Post 58 Commander Rich Stanley.

The ceremonies began with a parade along Main Street, led by members of the Belmont Police Department Honor Guard. Once the assembly arrived at the monument on Church Street, Legion members Woody Fogg and Howard Brown dipped the American flag then returned it to full mast. The flag raising was followed by the Belmont High School Band’s performance of “The Star Spangled Banner.”

Commander Stanley spoke to the crowd about some of the history of the American flag and the meaning of its stars and stripes. In 1776, he said, Betsy Ross was asked to follow a sketch that was drawn by General George Washington, and from that created the very first American flag. Adopted in 1777 as the nation’s official flag, Stanley said the 13 stars presented on the flag at that time represented the 13 original colonies. The white strips stood for purity and innocence, the red for heartiness and valor, and the American Legion Post 58 Commander Michael Elkins and National trail. Firefigh-
CEREMONY CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
whether it be police, fire, or military. He honored them all as he spoke to the citizens of the United States both at home and abroad.

War, Webber said, is a horrible thing, but he was grateful for those Americans who stand up to fight for what they believe in, one of the hardest sacrifices a person can make.

In the course of the battles he’s witnessed, Webber said he personally saw many acts of kindness, humanity and personal sacrifice; acts that are seldom shown in the media. Among them were things such as U.S. solders handing out candy to young children, providing medical assistance to Iraqi residents and even pitching in to rebuild schools in the communities.

It was constantly impressed upon him that their courage, but their kindness and decency to the Iraqi people. War brings out both kindness and courage,” Webber said. “They all make personal sacrifices for the common good.”

Also taking part this year were younger citizens of the Belmont community. Members of Boy Scout Troop 1217, Brownies and Daisy Troop 12117 participated once again by casting flowers into the Tioga River in honor of all those who lost their life at war.

“Baseball is just a game, but baseball is much more than that,” said Steve Bracey rang a full mast on Memorial Day.

Members of the Belmont Police Department Honor Guard looked on as Woody Fogg and Howard Bacon of Charles Kilborn American Legion Post 58 raised the American flag to full mast on Memorial Day.

In a move that brought many to tears, a young man ran a memorial bell to honor their life and service to the nation. BHS trumpet student Cody York, with H. Lavallee providing the “Echo” response, then performed “Taps.”

The ceremonies concluded with the community joining together in singing of “God Bless America,” led by Grace Shaw.

CLEANUP CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
covered two people who had erected a tent as a temporary residence in the woods off the trail.

A total of six occupants and one dog were displaced by the fire and were being assisted by Red Cross, Joubert said, and no injuries were incurred by firefighters as they battled the blaze.

Cause of the fire has been deemed to be accidental, due to the improper disposal of smoking materials on the pech.

TNSD officials noted this is the second home in Tilton that has sustained significant fire damage from discarded smoking material in the last four months.

“Don’t put cigarette butts in just any container. They need to be fully extinguished by dousing them in water or sand before disposing of them in a properly rated container,” said Firefighter Derek Ogg.

Assisting the Tilton-Northfield firefighters for the call were crews and equipment from Franklin, Belmont and Laconia, along with members of the Tilton Police Department, while the Sunbenton and New Hampton fire departments provided station coverage.

BELMONT GIRL SCOUTS, BROWNIES AND DAISY SCOUTS WANTED TO LEGION’S MEMORIAL

Belmont Girl Scouts, Brownies and Daisy Scouts were joined by American Legion Auxiliary representatives Sue Flanders as they cast flowers into the Tioga River on Memorial Day to honor those lost at war.