

Tilton, Sanbornton selectmen discuss regionalization of services

BY DONNA RHODES
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TILTON — An amicable meeting between Tilton and Sanbornton officials was held on July 25, part of a continuing outreach to neighboring towns, which was begun with a meeting in Sanbornton last month.

This time, Sanbornton selectmen, Town Administrator Bob Veloski, Fire Chief Paul Dexter, Police Chief Steve Hankard and Public Works Director Johnny Van Tassel traveled to Tilton to discuss shared resources and ways the communities could work together.

Northfield and Belmont selectmen were also invited to join in the discussions. In a letter from Northfield, selectmen said they felt the meeting would have more to do with fire services and they declined the invitation, saying they entrusted that responsibility to the elected fire commissioners of the Tilton-Northfield Fire District.

Belmont declined as well, stating they have nothing further to say on the matter of the former Winnisquam Fire Department, the topic of the Sanbornton meeting in June. The building has been found to be in poor repair and they were not interested in trying to reopen another three community department on the lakefront. They did, however, agree to meet at another time if discussions were scheduled for other issues

of mutual concern. Tilton selectmen did indeed open the meeting with the topic of fire and emergency medical services in the Winnisquam area, which encompasses portions of Tilton, Belmont and Sanbornton. It is a matter that is of grave concern to the board, they explained, and they hoped for input from their neighbors in Sanbornton.

With the closure of the Winnisquam station more than a decade ago, Chairman Katherine Dawson said services in that area are lacking.

"Ambulance response times in that part of Tilton are 16-18 minutes," said Dawson.

Tilton Selectman Al LaPlante asked Chief Dexter's thoughts on a substation in the Winnisquam area.

Dexter said recent road improvements between Sanbornton's fire station and Winnisquam have increased their response times for their residents in the area and he didn't believe in spending money for a substation until it was feasible.

"From 4 p.m. until 8 a.m. is when I need help. I'm looking for more staffing to give us better response times," he said. "We can build substations on every block, but it's a false sense of security if they aren't staffed."

Dexter also explained to them the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid system.

Encompassing all communities in central New Hampshire, Mutual Aid allows for fire and medical resources to respond without charge to another town when help is needed.

"Mutual Aid has been around for a long time. They're there when you reach your capacity," he said. "It's a seamless system."

Also invited to the meeting was Tilton-Northfield Fire Commissioner Pat Clark, who said he represented the commission. Clark told the board he felt strongly that the three governing bodies, the T-N District and selectmen from Belmont and Sanbornton who oversee their towns' fire departments, should be the ones to sit down and discuss how best to cover the Winnisquam area.

Clark acknowledged that East Tilton would be a big part of a Master Plan for the district and the commission will welcome public input when they investigate how to best resolve the concerns. Topping his list of upcoming projects though, is the need for better quarters for the department's equipment and housing for employees.

In coming months, the commission will be looking at the possibility of moving their "rolling stock" and living quarters from the Center Street station in Tilton to the Park Street station in Northfield. Clark felt it could possibly help the East Til-

ton situation, if and when that move took place. The commission would, however, be open to input on ways to address response times in East Tilton and the Winnisquam area as a whole.

"The first step in that would be to have all the

governing bodies at the table to figure out what we want," said Clark.

Since the towns of Tilton and Northfield are served by an elected fire commission, he said those selectmen would not be a part of the discussions except as public input.

Sanbornton Selectman Karen Ober asked what Tilton felt was the greatest need in that part of their town, and Dawson told her medical calls seem to be the most frequent service requested. Clark said he had not received any re-

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Tilton Police Explorers receive grant from 3M

Tilton's Police Explorers recently won prestigious 3M community service grant in the amount of \$500. Pictured left to right are Explorer Sgt. Lauren Chivell, 3M employee Barry Livingstone, 3M employee Candy Robinson, 3M employee Sue LaFlamme, Explorer Lt. Tia Tine, and 3M employee Eric Gallien; missing is explorer Captain Kayla Malloch, who was at training in Washington, D.C.

Tilton selectmen at odds over PAYT program

Public hearing tonight will determine start date

BY DONNA RHODES
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TILTON — Selectmen were at odds last week over the Pay As You Throw program in Tilton, and determined that any decisions for a start up date would be put off until after an Aug. 1 public hearing.

Selectman Joe Jesseman, who is also a member of the Recycling Committee, said he received word on Thursday morning, July 18 that the PAYT special trash bags had been shipped and would be available in local stores. With their arrival, Jesseman suggested a start date of Aug. 20 for the town's new

trash program but other selectmen disagreed.

He argued that the town has mandated the program through their vote at the March town meeting and fears it has been put off too long.

"At this rate, it will be Dec. 31 before we begin," he said.

Others remained steadfast in their preference to wait until after the upcoming hearing.

"We need to do due diligence and iron out all the problems first. Hopefully, we'll do that on the first," said Katherine Dawson.

Dawson was also upset

to hear the bags had been shipped and would be on sale in Tilton stores before the program even begins. She said she was afraid people would buy the bags and begin using them needlessly before PAYT gets underway.

Jesseman suggested that the Recycling Committee ask shop owners to display a sign informing residents they should not use them until Aug. 20. That way, he said, people could begin to stock up on the bags if they chose, but would know to hold off on using them in the meantime.

Chairman Pat Consentino agreed with Dawson that no start date should be decided until after the hearing. She said there has been too much confusion already over the every other week recycling pick-up and those issues and more need to be addressed first.

"There were hundreds of recycling bins out (last) week. People are generally

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Old Home Day to showcase community pride in Belmont

BY COURTNEY PELLETIER
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — As Belmont Old Home Day returns to the downtown area Saturday, Aug. 10 with last year's construction projects now a memory, this year's "Belmont Pride" theme is perfectly fitting.

Shana Agan, the town's new Special Events Coordinator and new to the planning of Old Home Day, says "I'm just excited to take part in it, especially at the new downtown!"

This year's Old Home Day will see activities and food, novelty and craft vendors throughout the day behind the Belmont Public Library, moving to Bryant Field at night. Kid's games, including a pedal tractor pull, are set to begin at 10 a.m. and live music at 10:30 a.m.

The parade, to take place at 1 p.m., is very much anticipated after the lack of one last year due to construction.

The annual ten-mile race is set to begin at 9 a.m., with participants coming from all over the state. Matt LeClair, a senior at Belmont High School, is participating along with other members of the school's varsity and junior varsity soccer teams. The team participates every year, with encouragement from their

coach, Michael Foley.

LeClair said, "I'm really excited to run in it this year. I've done it before to get ready for soccer season, but last year I was injured and couldn't participate. This year I'm just really hoping to improve my time from years past!"

Night time events on Bryant Field, including the Good Citizen Award Presentation and games, are set to begin at 7 p.m.,

Fundraiser "pumps" up support for Special Olympics

BY DONNA RHODES
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REGION — The Fueling Dreams fundraiser last Saturday had law enforcement and athletes "pumped" over the show of support for Special Olympics New Hampshire when customer after customer at local Circle K/Irving stores pulled in to make cash donations to the organization.

In return, officers pumped their gas and washed their windshields while the Special Olympians themselves greeted everyone and thanked them for their contributions.

In Belmont, Officer Evan Boulanger headed up this year's Fueling Dreams event, which single-handedly raised \$656 for SONH in donations alone.

and live music begins at 7:30 p.m. Other annual activities set to take place this year include a chicken dinner at the Belmont Fire Department, and the day's culmination in a fantastic fireworks display.

Because of limited parking at Bryant Field and in the surrounding area, a shuttle will be running at night from Lakes Region Casino in Belmont on Route 106 to Bryant Field.



Athletes Diann and Charlett were joined by Belmont and Gilmanton police and Police Explorers, as well as their caregivers and coaches from the Winnepesaukee Warriors, for the statewide Fueling Dreams fundraising event for Special Olympics New Hampshire last Saturday.

"This has been one of our best years ever," said Boulanger. "Nine out of

every ten customers have made a donation so far." Assisting the Belmont

and Gilmanton police departments were members SEE OLYMPICS, PAGE A11

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