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Belmont Bandstand Memories



A NEW LRPA-TV PRODUCTION, 'Belmont Bandstand Memories', shares interviews, history, and photographs beginning Saturday, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m. on Channel 25. The bandstand has been located on the Town Green in Belmont Village since 1908. It was moved to the Tioga River bank in the late 1920s to make room for the 'new' library. Its temporary relocation is scheduled the week of Aug. 6, next to the Mill parking lot. WALLACE RHODES/COURTESY

LACONIA — A new Lakes Region Public Access Television documentary spotlights history, interviews, and photographs of the historic Belmont Village Bandstand. Bandstand Memories begins airing on educational Channel 25, on Saturday, Aug. 4 at 7 p.m. The program will continue to run in rotation throughout the summer schedule.

The 30-minute production features videography from Laconia's Bob Daniels, highlighted with interviews by veteran Lakes Region journalist Ray Carbone.

The history of the 1908 Victorian-era structure, memories of its Centennial celebration, and earlier preservation efforts are discussed by Town Historian Wallace Rhodes, Lakes Region Community College Culinary Arts Program faculty member William Walsh, and Linda Frawley of the Belmont Heritage Commission.

Photographs from village events throughout recent seasons also are included and special recognition is given to the late Mrs. Whitman Ides of Belmont, former Beautification Committee chair who led 1970s bandstand preservation efforts, including funding support from the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, citizens, and community organizations. Her energies resulted in a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, a project the Belmont Heritage Commission is continuing.

LRPA-TV also will cablecast entertainer Jackie Lee of Belmont who performed at a recent bandstand summer gathering, in upcoming days, with music from last month's summer gathering.

"Concerts are a great source for our independent programming," said Denise Beauchaine, executive director. "Performances showcase regional talent, from school and community stages, allowing viewers to enjoy from home."

Founded in July 1999, LRPA-TV operates three public access cable stations, serving more than 50,000 MetroCast subscribers.