

# Fire truck being sold on eBay to benefit nursing home

By AARON ALDRIDGE  
Staff Writer

An old red fire truck that was once the pride of the now defunct Sullivan County Fire Department will now be sold at auction to benefit the residents of Sullivan County Health Care.

The 1949 American LaFrance fire truck has not been used for several years, so Ann LaBelle, president of the Friends of Activities for Sullivan County Health Care Association, thought it would be a good idea to sell the truck on eBay and use the proceeds to benefit the elderly residents.

"We would like to purchase a new bus so we can take the residents shopping, on a trip to the beach or to the opera house for a show," LaBelle said. "I would love to take 20 residents at a time."

The facility now uses a five

passenger vehicle for transportation but LaBelle said it is mostly used to take residents to appointments.

The unused, dust covered truck now sits in a barn surrounded by weeds, cobwebs and old unserviceable equipment from the nursing home. It was last used by the county about ten years ago, but is still reportedly in running condition.

LaBelle asked the county commissioners if they were willing to part with the truck and they agreed Tuesday to sell the truck to the non-profit association for one dollar.

"It's a great idea," Commissioner Jeff Barrette said about using the money from the sale of the truck. "I hope they get tons for it."

LaBelle estimates the truck is worth between \$5,000 and \$7,000.

"We'll need to get a real good estimate before we post it on

eBay," LaBelle said. "That should be in about two weeks."

Nobody is quite sure about the history of the truck, but it may have been a donation from the Claremont Fire Department and used at the nursing home. Fire departments from Unity and Claremont now respond to emergencies at the nursing home.

The association was the brain child of LaBelle and she modeled it after the Friends of Maplewood in Cheshire County.

"I think it enhances the quality of life for the residents," LaBelle said.

In addition to the new van she hopes to purchase, LaBelle said she is doing other fundraisers to purchase new outdoor furniture.

"We have a penny drive with cans set up in each department," LaBelle said. "It's a fun challenge."

LaBelle is also selling raffle

tickets for a 20/20 raffle and also encouraging people to join the association.

"It's only a one dollar membership fee," LaBelle said.

All of the money raised by the association is controlled by a board of directors and used to benefit the residents.

"As an association, we control where the money goes," LaBelle said. "We raise money for the residents, but we are not part of the county."

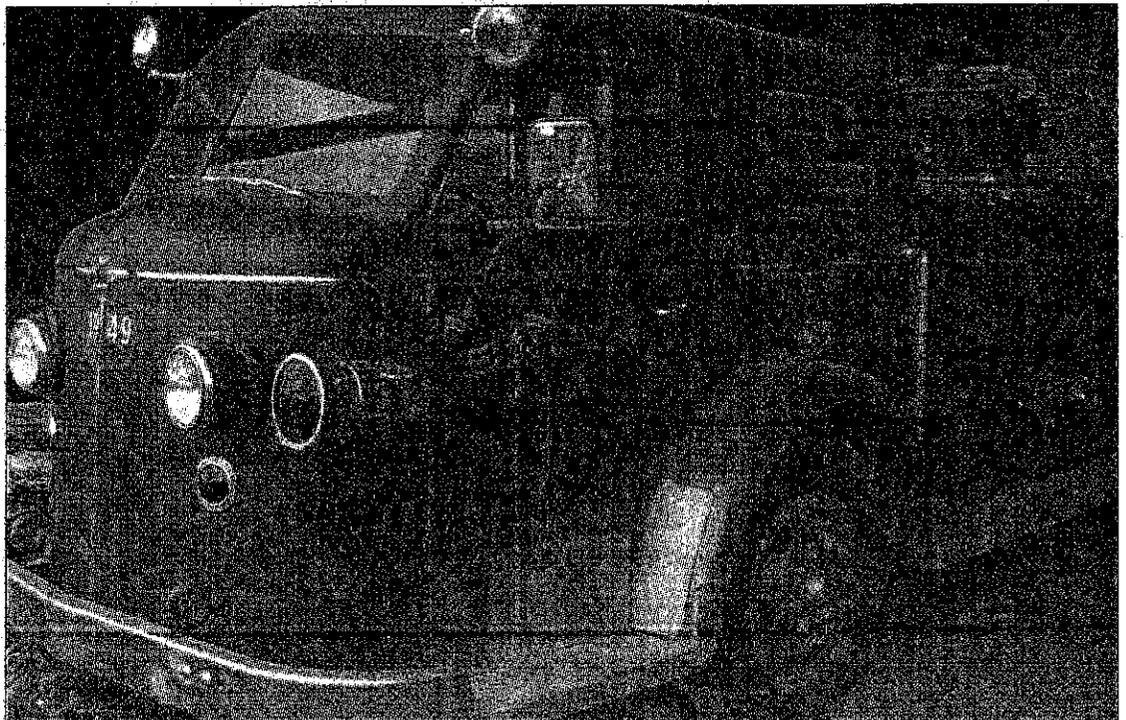
As for the fire truck, LaBelle said she would like to see it sell for a high price.

"We want to get the most for our money."

Anyone interested in joining the association or participating in fundraising may contact LaBelle at (603) 542-9511 ext. 220, or (603) 542-6147.

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## Vintage fire truck for sale



AARON ALDRIDGE PHOTO

Sullivan County Health Care is in the process of selling a 1949 fire truck on eBay that was formerly used by the now defunct Sullivan County Fire Department. The funds raised from the sales will go to purchasing a bus to transport residents of the center to various events. See page A5 for the story.