
'Magical' weekend expected as Greenfield celebrates winter carnival



By **Cori Urban | Special to The Republican**

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GREENFIELD –Get ready for a "magical" weekend as Greenfield celebrates its 94th Winter Carnival from Friday, Feb. 5, to Sunday, Feb. 7.

"Winter to many people is magical," said Christy L. Moore, Greenfield recreation director. "It's exciting to get outside and do something fun in the doldrums of winter."

And the weekend will have opportunities for many fun activities.

They will include ice carving, a parade of lights, a bonfire and fireworks display, an amateur photography contest, a hockey game, a 4-mile run, a family fun fest, basketball games, a cribbage tournament, ice skating, Breakfast with Olaf from the **Disney movie "Frozen,"** sledding, a snow sculpture contest, hay or sleigh rides, a tug of war, ice bowling, a chili cook-off, the K-9 Keg Pull and a cardboard sled race.

New this year will be a "Magic of Winter" story walk. Two third-graders at Four Corners School in Greenfield wrote and illustrated a story that will be posted at Beacon Field for people to read. The activity was done in partnership with the Greenfield Public Schools Title I program.

Activities take place throughout town; many of them -- like the fireworks -- are at Beacon Field. "Fireworks in the middle of winter is pretty spectacular," Moore said. "There aren't any leaves on the trees, and the sky is illuminated differently" than in the summer.

She said winter can be especially magical when there is fluffy snow on the ground, but even if there isn't any snow, the carnival will go on. Some events will be modified accordingly; the cardboard sled race, for example, would not take place, but the sleds would still be judged based on creativity.

Moore estimated that last year "thousands" of people from Franklin County and beyond participated in at least one Winter Carnival activity.

"It's pretty jam-packed all three days with activities for all ages," she said.

Most events are free, but some activities do include a fee or suggested donation. Fee information and registration forms for specific activities are available at greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival.

For more information about the carnival or to volunteer, call (413) 772-1553.

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